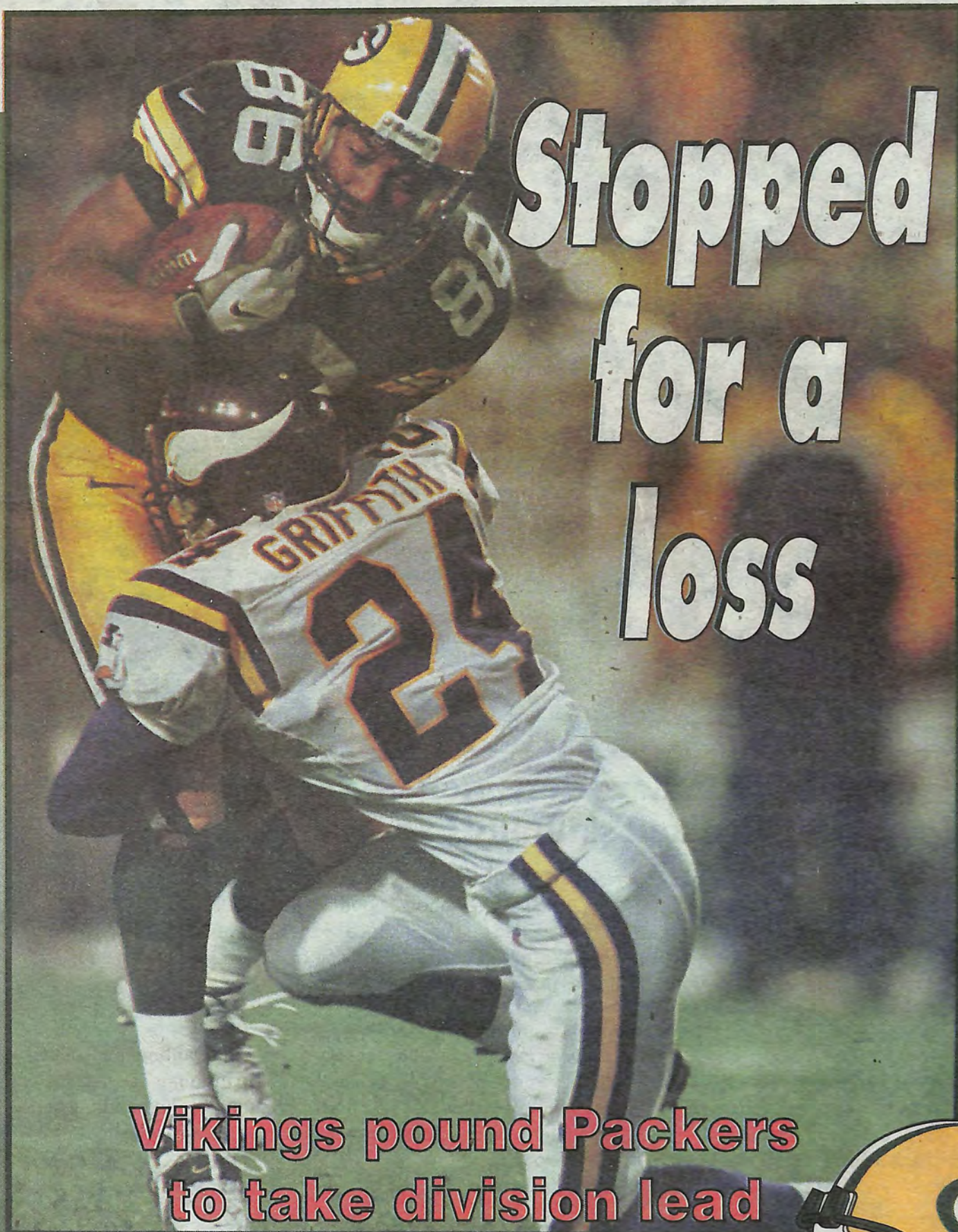


PACKER REPORT



**Stopped
for a
loss**

**Vikings pound Packers
to take division lead**

**Cunningham
shreds
secondary**

**Reggie
White
poster**

**Assistant
coaches
get a booth
with a view**



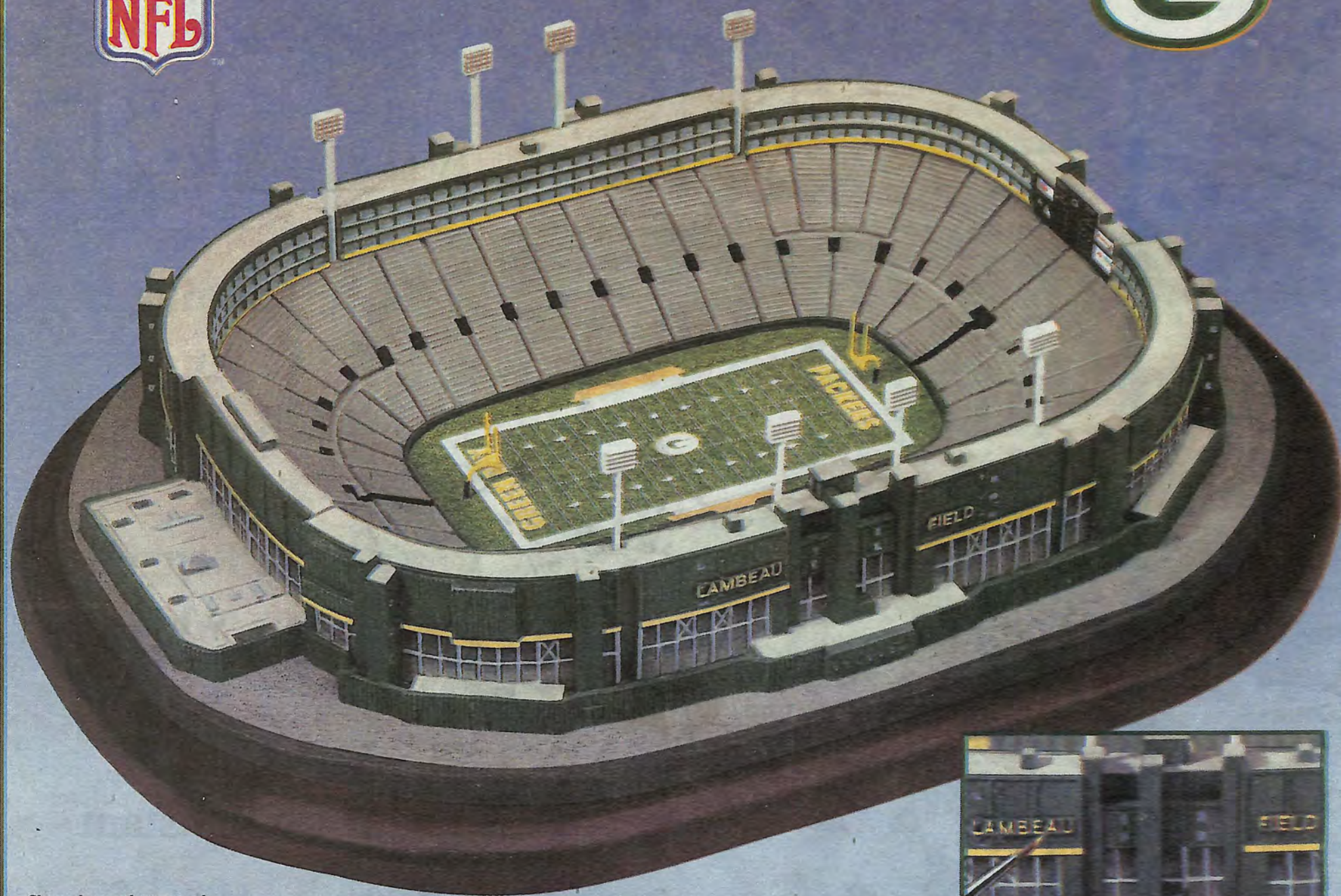
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Please Deliver By Saturday, October 17, 1998

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FLS1E262

PACKER REPORT

October 17, 1998

ON THE COVER

Packers wide receiver Antonio Freeman is stopped by safety Robert Griffith of the Vikings in the first quarter. Griffith had two interceptions as Minnesota bombarded Green Bay, 37-24, on Monday night at Lambeau Field. For more, see pages 6-11.

Cover photo by Allen Fredrickson

McCarren 4

If you ever get a chance to see an NFL game from the sideline, go for it. It's as up close and personal as you can get, says columnist Larry McCarren.

Doused 7-10

The Minnesota Vikings piled up 545 yards of offense on Monday night en route to a 37-24 whipping of the Green Bay Packers at Lambeau Field.

Eyes in the sky 12-13

Each game, a handful of Packers assistant coaches eye the game from a booth in the upper level of the stadium and relay information to the coaches on the field.

Poster 18-19

Photographer Allen Fredrickson features defensive end Reggie White rushing against Oakland tackle Lincoln Kennedy during a preseason game in August.

Lions preview 24-27

The Packers will try to sweep the season series against the Detroit Lions before a national cable television audience on Oct. 15 in the Pontiac Silverdome.

Glance back 32

Mike P. McCoy, Green Bay's No. 1 draft choice in 1970, was one of the Packers' top defensive tackles. Now he's relishing in his role as a speaker on Christian values.



PACKER TRIVIA

After winning the NFL championship in 1936, what team did the Green Bay Packers lose to on Sept. 1, 1937?

Answer to Sept. 19 question and details to trivia contest on page 16.



Photo by Dan Currier

Bombs away: Quarterback Randall Cunningham fires a pass under pressure from nose tackle Gilbert Brown in the Vikings' win over the Packers on Monday night. Cunningham had one of his best days as a pro, completing 20 of 32 passes for 442 yards in the rain to lead Minnesota in a battle for first place in the Central Division.

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Next issue Oct. 19

Because of the bye week, the next issue of *Packer Report* will be printed and mailed on Monday, Oct. 19.

It will include coverage of Green Bay's Oct. 15 game against the Detroit Lions, a preview of the Packers' Oct. 25 home game against the Baltimore Ravens, features, commentary, statistics and more!

— Todd Korth

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**Todd
Korth**

Packer Report Editor

I'll always remember the first autograph I received from a professional athlete. I was in the sixth grade when the special guest of our basketball banquet ducked his head through the doors to our tiny gymnasium at St. Matthew's grade school in Oconomowoc, Wis.

Curtis Perry, then a 6-foot-7, 220-pound forward in the early 1970s for the Milwaukee Bucks, is someone you've probably never heard of or long forgotten. But I'll never forget him. He was my first brush with greatness.

I remember how Perry towered above me and my teammates like a skyscraper. Except this skyscraper was averaging nine points and nine rebounds a game off the bench for the Bucks, who won the NBA title a few seasons earlier. We knew he was coming to our gym and knew everything about him, but he was still bigger than life, especially in person. If he had not said a word that night, nobody would have complained, but Perry spoke to members of the school's basketball teams and then took time afterward to sign autographs. When he began signing, I quickly grabbed a little piece of paper off a table and made sure I got the encounter in writing.

I kept Perry's autograph for a number of years, always reserving a special place for it on my bulletin board in my bedroom. But along the way, through my moves in college and afterward, that little piece of paper fell by the wayside. No big deal. The memory and the "brush" will always outlast the ink.

It seems that until the last five to ten years, obtaining an autograph was simply a way of proving to others that you came across a celebrity athlete, entertainer or leader of society. That has changed. Now, obtaining autographs is as big a business as collecting cards, sports prints, or anything that can potentially be worth big money to somebody some day. The price of most items will soar as soon as a star athlete scribbles his or her name on them. It has become a big business and because of its dog-eat-dog nature, it gets ugly once in a while.

Last spring, two Milwaukee-area men were convicted of selling more than 1,000 phony signatures of Brett Favre and 1,000 fake signatures of other athletes as well. Last year, the FBI reportedly estimated that as many as 70 percent of all sports autographs are fraudulent.

Not everybody is crooked. The company I am employed by and others will pay such stars as Favre or Reggie White large sums of money to sign hundreds of items under the watchful eye of the company's employees. Photos are taken for use in certificates of authenticity, so buyers can be assured that everything is legit.

In turn, fans or collectors of the particular athlete will pay various amounts of money for autographed items. That's great if you have a lot of money to spend or are unable to come across your hero, but it will always boggle my mind. Buying an autograph or autographed item is about as personal as purchasing stock in a distant company. Where's the encounter? The

personal memory?

Sure, there's the market value of "owning" a signature, but to me it's as personal as owning any type of collectible item. It might be worth more than some stored-away beer can collection, however, it will never signify the true meaning of what the autograph was meant to be.

I can quickly name Curtis Perry as one of the members of the Bucks in the early '70s, but aside from Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Oscar Robertson and Bob Dandridge, I need to look up other members of those successful Bucks teams of that era. If I hadn't come across Perry, I probably never would have remembered him as long as I have.

Obtaining the autograph of a superstar such as Favre or White can be special, particularly if it's in person. It's not easy these days because of the many people who solely want their signatures for monetary value, but it can be done. For the last couple of years during training camp, Packers coaches and players signed autographs for free after practices. But even then the autograph frenzy reared its ugly head when it was reported that some adults were literally grabbing tickets out of children's hands so they could enter the designated area to obtain autographs.

If, for some reason, you do not get an autograph from a celebrity that you've come across, at least you have the memory of shaking their hand, or saying hello, or listening to their speech, etc.

Seeking an autograph in person will always outweigh the mail-order variety, no matter who it is. But I always cringe when I see fans asking for an autograph and calling the player by the wrong name. It's good to know who you're going after. I'm sure the players certainly appreciate it, too.

Sometimes the star will come to you, or you may accidentally brush up against their greatness. Other times, you may have to seek them out in order to get that special signature. In any case, if it's meaningful it will be priceless and real. The memory will last a lifetime and the signature or "brush" may not cost a dime.

That's what it's all about.

Sideline view of game is powerful

Every true blue, real deal, no-doubt-about-it fan of professional football ought to have the opportunity to watch a game from the sideline. As up close and as personal as you can get just one time. Any fan would love the game they already love even more.

Due to Packer Radio Network responsibilities, yours truly hadn't been on the field of battle during the battle for several years. That, however, has changed now that an almost instant locker room post-game segment has been added to the broadcast (a big thank you to the Packer public relations department for making it work, but that's a different column).

The logistics of getting those interviews on the air in timely fashion have necessitated an early exit from the booth to the field. About 10 seconds into my first trip down there, I realized that it is a much different game, and as a matter of fact, a much better game at ground level.

Being that close to it makes one appreciate how human it is, that there are actually living and breathing dads, sons and brothers buried underneath all that protective plastic.

The first thing you notice is the noise. There are audible grunts and groans on every play, not to mention the sounds of pads on pads and helmets on helmets. You rarely hear any of it in the stands. While TV roams the sidelines with those big



Larry McCarren
Featured columnist

dishes in an effort to pick it up, nothing can compare to hearing the game "live." The sounds, raw and real, as are the sights just a few yards from the action.

From that perspective, you can see faces like you can't on television, regardless of camera quantity or quality. It's hard to explain but perhaps the best way to put it is that you can see fatigue. Faces are flushed, sweat's streaming from every pore, and mouths are open, searching for oxygen.

But you know what really hits you? The eyes. There's a "look" on the field like no other. For one thing, everyone's eyes are big, real big, and that must go with situations involving physical confrontations (I've never seen a sleepy-looking boxer, at least not one who was still vertical). But there's more to it than just wide eyes.

There's something else being conveyed, something deeper and it might fall somewhere between excitement and concern. The excitement showing up as a result of an adrenalin pump stuck on full throttle while the concern comes from that under-acknowledged but very effective motivator — fear and failure. If the eyes are indeed the windows to the soul, it might be best to pull the shades during the midst of an NFL game. There's some wild stuff going on in there.

Singular sights. Spectacular sounds. And it's all happening at warp speed! Due to his ailing back, Robert Brooks has spent some time on the sideline this season. When asked about his impression from that vantage point, the very first thing he said was, "The game is so fast it's unbelievable." And that's coming from one of the guys that makes it so fast! Again, the speed of the action doesn't translate nearly as well to the TV screen. It's kind of like watching auto racing on the tube. Because everything's moving

real fast, nothing looks real fast. Attend a race in person, and suddenly those cars become blurs. And the closer you get to them, the more you can appreciate just how fast they're going. That's the sideline difference when it comes to speed.

The field also serves as a focal point for a tremendous amount of human energy, and I'm not referring to the kind that is being produced by the players. On a typical game day at Lambeau Field, more than 60,000 people are directing their cheers, jeers and everything in between at the same time at 22 guys on a 100-yard patch of grass. Not to get overly metaphysical, but you can feel something just standing next to it. Imagine pumping up the volume on your stereo until you can actually "feel" the sound. That's what it's like.

Unfortunately, very few fans get to experience pro football at its ground level best, but over the years I must confess to having helped a couple friends in that regard. My high school basketball coach was amazed that someone didn't get hurt on every play. Another buddy said it was one of the most memorable and exciting experiences of his life. That coming from a man who won the bronze star as a fighter pilot in the Gulf War!

Note to Lee Rummel: I promise never to misuse a sideline pass again, so please, please, don't revoke mine. The game's just too good down there.

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SCORING SUMMARY

Green Bay Packers	0	10	0	14	24
Minnesota Vikings	3	21	3	10	37

Vikings, 1, 3:14, Anderson 33-yard field goal (14-65, 7:00) 3-0

Packers, 2, 14:53, Longwell 40-yard field goal (10-45, 3:21) 3-3

Vikings, 2, 12:09, Reed 56-yard pass from Cunningham (Anderson, kick) (5-80, 2:44) 10-3

Packers, 2, 11:52, Preston 101-yard kickoff return (Longwell, kick) 10-10

Vikings, 2, 9:56, Moss 52-yard pass from Cunningham (Anderson, kick) (4-76, 1:56) 17-10

Vikings, 2, 4:43, Smith 24-yard pass from Cunningham (Anderson, kick) (4-65, 0:47) 24-10

Vikings, 3, 11:17, Anderson 25-yard field goal (9-48, 3:43) 27-10

Vikings, 4, 13:31, Anderson 19-yard field goal (13-79, 7:21) 30-10

Vikings, 4, 10:16, Moss 44-yard pass from Cunningham (Anderson, kick) (4-57, 2:20) 37-10

Packers, 4, 3:03, Davis 11-yard pass from Pederson (Longwell, kick) (6-65, 1:17) 37-17

Packers, 4, 0:45, Schroeder 16-yard pass from Pederson (Longwell, kick) (11-58, 2:18) 37-24

Attendance: 59,849; Time: 3:03

Weather: Temperature 58, showers, humidity 93, wind E 11 mph

FINAL TEAM STATISTICS

	Vikings	Packers
TOTAL FIRST DOWNS	22	21
By Rushing	3	9
By Passing	17	10
By Penalty	2	2
THIRD DOWN EFFICIENCY	8-13-62%	2-10-20%
FOURTH DOWN EFFICIENCY	0-0-0%	2-3-67%
TOTAL NET YARDS	545	306
Total Offensive Plays (inc. time thrown passing)	66	61
Average gain per offensive play	8.3	5.0
NET YARDS RUSHING	103	102
Total Rushing Plays	34	20
Average gain per rushing play	3.0	5.1
NET YARDS PASSING	442	204
Times thrown — yards lost attempting to pass	0-0	2-13
Gross yards passing	442	217
PASS ATTEMPTS-COMPLETIONS-HAD INT.	32-20-0	39-23-3
Average gain per pass play (inc. # thrown passing)	13.8	5.0
KICKOFFS-In End Zone-Touchbacks	8-2-0	5-1-1
PUNTS Number and Average	1-51	3-44.7
Had Blocked	0	0
FGs-PATs Had Blocked	0-0	0-0
TOTAL RETURN YARDAGE (Not Including Kickoffs)	27	9
No. and Yards Punt Returns	0-0	1-9
No. and Yards Kickoff Returns	2-55	8-256
No. and Yards Interception Returns	3-27	0-0
PENALTIES Number and Yards	8-76	3-20
FUMBLES Number and Lost	1-1	1-0
TOUCHDOWNS	4	3
Rushing	0	0
Passing	4	2
Kickoff Returns	0	1
EXTRA POINTS Made-Attempts	4-4	3-3
FIELD GOALS Made-Attempts	3-3	1-1
FINAL SCORE	37	24
TIME OF POSSESSION	34:23	25:37

GREEN BAY PACKERS

	Att.	Net Yds.	Avg.	Long Gain	TD
RUSHING					
Jervy	8	55	6.9	10	0
Harris	7	27	3.9	14	0
Henderson	4	10	2.5	9	0
Freeman	1	10	10.0	10	0

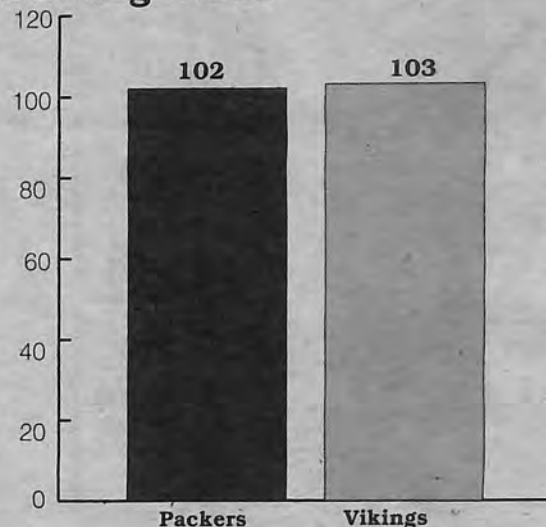
	Att.	Cmp.	Yds.	TKD/Yd.	TD	LG	Had Int.
PASSING							
Favre	23	13	114	2/13	0	17	3
Pederson	16	10	103	0/0	2	29	0

	No.	Yds.	LG	TD
PASS RECEIVING				
Henderson	4	26	9	0
Freeman	3	53	29	0
Schroeder	3	32	16	1
Davis	3	23	11	1
Jervy	3	13	8	0
Brooks	2	29	17	0
Chmura	2	18	12	0
Harris	2	12	8	0
Mayes	1	11	11	0

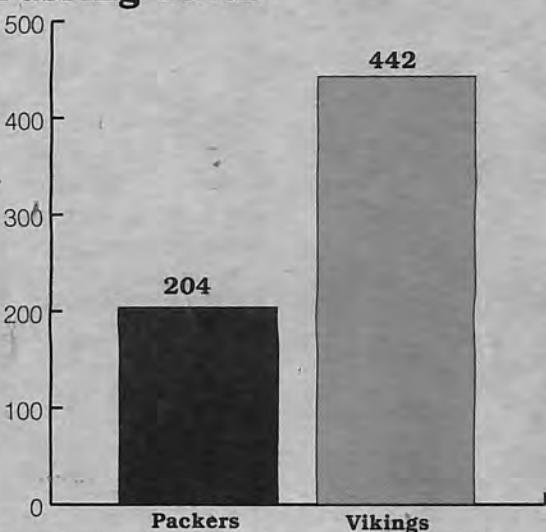
	No.	Yds.	LG	TD
INTERCEPTIONS				
none				

	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TB	In 20	LG
PUNTING						
Landeta	3	134	44.7	1	2	49

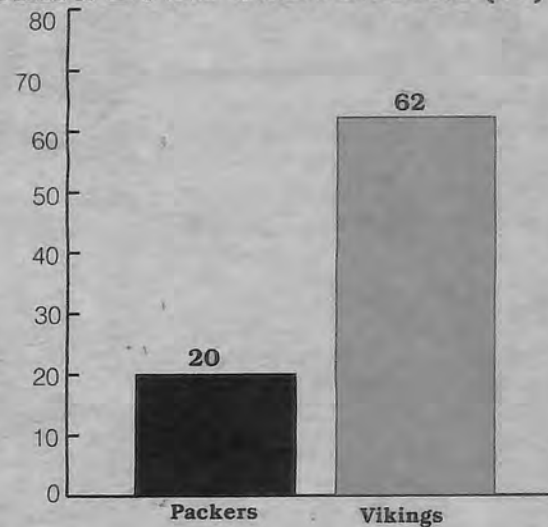
Rushing Yards



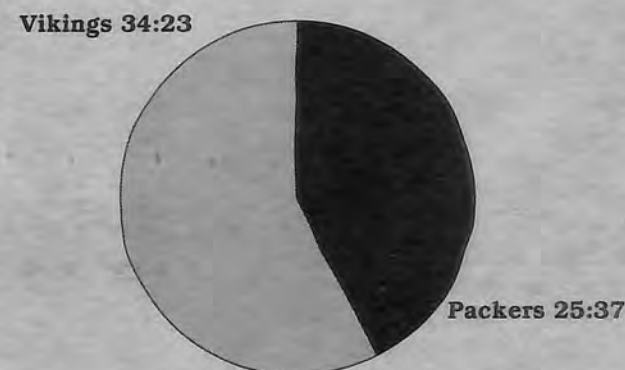
Passing Yards



Third Down Conversions (%)



Time of Possession



	No.	FC	Yds.	LG	TD
PUNT RETURNS					
Mayes	1	0	9	9	0
KICKOFF RETURNS					
Preston	8	0	256	101	1
McGarrahan	0	0	0	0	0

MINNESOTA VIKINGS

	Att.	Net Yds.	Avg.	Long Gain	TD
RUSHING					
Smith	25	78	3.1	9	0
Hoard	3	13	4.3	6	0
Palmer	2	12	6.0	6	0
Evans	1	2	2.0	2	0
Cunningham	2	-1	-1.5	0	0
Carter	1	-1	-1.0	-1	0

	Att.	Cmp.	Yds.	TKD/Yd.	TD	LG	Had Int.
PASSING							
Cunningham	32	20	442	0/0	4	56	0

	No.	Yds.	LG	TD
PASS RECEIVING				
Carter	8	119	33	0
Moss	5	190	52	2
Reed	4	89	56	1
Smith	2	38	24	1
Glover	1	6	6	0

	No.	Yds.	LG	TD
INTERCEPTIONS				
Griffith	2	0	0	0
Thomas	1	27	27	0

	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TB	In 20	LG
PUNTING						
Berger	1	51	51.0	0	0	51

	No.	FC	Yds.	LG	TD
PUNT RETURNS					
Palmer	0	1	0	0	0

	No.	FC	Yds.	LG	TD
KICKOFF RETURNS					
Palmer	2	0	55	36	0
Walsh	0	0	0	0	0

GREEN BAY PACKERS

	T	A	SK	YL	INT.	PD	FR
Unofficial							
Butler	7	4	0.0	0.0	0	2	0
Dotson	5	4	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Holliday	2	6	0.0	0.0	0	0	1
Hollinquest	5	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Williams	5	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Sharper	4	1	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Williams	3	2	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Harris	1	4	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Newsome	4	0	0.0	0.0	0	1	0
Koonce	1	2	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
White	0	3	0.0	0.0	0	1	0
McGarrahan	2	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Booker	1	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Unidentified	1	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Brown	0	1	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Prior	0	1	0.0	0.0	0	0	0

MINNESOTA VIKINGS

	T	A	SK	YL	INT.	PD	FR
Unofficial							
McDaniel	6	1	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Wong	5	1	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Fuller	4	2	0.0	0.0	0	1	0
Edwards	3	2	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Williams	2	3	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Thomas	2	2	0.0	0.0	1	1	0
Alexander	3	0	2.0	13.0	0	0	0
Bericich	3	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Gray	3	0	0.0	0.0	0	1	0
Hitchcock	3	0	0.0	0.0	0	1	0
Colinet	1	2	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Griffith	1	2	0.0	0.0	2	2	0
Randle	1	1	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
McDonald	0	2	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Ball	0	1	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Clemons	0	1	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Mays	0	1	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Rudd	0	1	0.0	0.0	0	0	0



Left in Vikings' wake

Minnesota pelts Packers behind Cunningham in Central Division showdown

By Todd Korth

The Green Bay Packers had their chances — three of them.

On second and one from the Vikings' 35 yard line, all the Packers needed a yard for a first down to keep a drive going and a chance at tying the game in the second quarter. But Green Bay was met head on by a determined Vikings' squad set on knocking off the defending Central Division champions.

First, Raymont Harris went off right guard. No gain. William Henderson pounded up the middle on third down. No gain. On fourth down, Henderson went up the middle again. No gain.

From that point on, it was the Vikings' ball, Vikings' momentum and Vikings' game.

"That was a big play, a big play," said Packers coach Mike Holmgren. "That was the second time in two weeks that we've been unable to convert that type of situation and that's troubling."

Randall Cunningham was even more troubling for the Packers. The 13th-year pro made the Packers pay for their inability to move the ball and capitalized on Green Bay's mistakes. Three plays later, the lanky quarterback completed a screen pass to running back Robert Smith, who rambled 24 yards for a touchdown as the Vikings took a commanding 24-10 lead en route to a 37-24 victory over the Packers at rainy Lambeau Field on Monday night.

Cunningham had his second-best game passing as a pro, throwing for 442 yards and four touchdowns, including two to rookie wide receiver Randy Moss. Minnesota's whipping of the Packers (4-1) stopped Green Bay's home winning streak at 25 games and gave the undefeated Vikings (5-0) sole possession of first place in the Central Division.

"This was the greatest night of my career," Cunningham said. "To come in here and win at Lambeau, where no one ever wins, and to do what we did against the No. 1 defense in the league was amazing."

The Vikings finished with a whopping 545 net yards to Green Bay's 306 and dominated the showdown before 59,849 shell-shocked Packers fans.

"We got out-played," said Packers quarterback Brett Favre, who threw three interceptions, was sacked twice and finished with 114 yards passing. "I think that's obvious to everyone. We could sit here and blame it on a lot of things. The conditions were terrible and all that stuff. They (Minnesota) handled it well and that's kind of frustrating. We didn't handle it well and they did. They're a good football team. But if we play like this every week, I'll be sitting here with the same look on my face. That's what is frustrating about it."

It was Favre's worst output passing since he threw for 79 yards in a divisional playoff game against the San Francisco 49ers on Jan. 4, 1997. It also was the most



Photo by Dan Currier

Running back Robert Smith runs for 9 yards in the second quarter as Packers Brian Williams chases. Smith ran for a total of 78 yards on 25 carries.

passing yards that the Packers have ever yielded to an opponent.

Minnesota's dynamic receiving trio of Cris Carter, Jake Reed and Moss doused any thoughts the Packers may have had of entering the bye week undefeated. Carter caught eight passes for 119 yards; Moss five for 190 yards and two touchdowns; and Reed four for 89 yards and a touchdown.

The Packers, who had given up just four touchdowns passing in the first four games this season, were beaten six times on completions of 33 yards or more. Neither the elements nor the NFL's top-ranked defense could stop Cunningham and the high-octane Vikings offense from the second quarter on.

Despite the steady rain that fell from the start of the game, Cunningham was as cool as the 56-degree weather. The veteran backup threw touchdown passes 56, 52 and 24 yards to three different receivers in the second quarter as the Vikings took control.

"They just kept rolling and rolling and we couldn't stop the momentum that they had," said Packers free safety Darren Sharper. "It was tough because we made some good plays, got a turnover. We bounced back, but they just kept making big plays on us."

Cunningham was 13 of 19 for 282 yards in the first half, and all but 39 yards

passing came in the second quarter. He finished by completing 20 of 32 and no interceptions for his best passing output since he threw for 447 yards against the Washington Redskins on Sept. 17, 1989.

Cunningham, who took over for the injured Brad Johnson in Week 2, raised his touchdown total to a league-leading 13.

"Coming into this game we haven't given up many big plays at all," said Packers defensive tackle Santana Dotson. "We pride ourselves on not giving up the big play and making offenses make yards the hard way. Today, the lack of consistency defensively made it real easy for those guys to score points."

The Vikings took a 10-3 lead on Cunningham's 56-yard bomb to Jake Reed, but Roell Preston took the ensuing kickoff, broke through an opening on the left side and outran everyone down the left sideline for a 101-yard return into the end zone.

Preston, whose job was on the line after shaky performances against Tampa Bay and Cincinnati, followed up an encouraging performance against Carolina with his second kickoff return of the season.

But Vikings, a 6.5-point underdog entering the game, quickly broke the tie by going deep on Green Bay's secondary again. Cunningham's 16-yard pass to

Vikings	37
Packers	24

Carter on third-and-two set up his 54-yard bomb to Moss for a touchdown. Cunningham hit Moss, who leaped over cornerback Tyrone Williams at the 15, and raced into the end zone as the Vikings went up 17-10.

Favre threw his first interception of the night on the next series to Orlando Thomas, but Green Bay got the ball back when Cunningham fumbled on a quarterback sneak on the Vikings' 44. But Minnesota's defense stopped Green Bay on three consecutive running plays for no gain at the Vikings' 35.

Cunningham hit Moss with a 41-yard pass and Minnesota caught a break on the next play when cornerback Craig Newsome dropped a pass intended for Carter in the end zone. The Vikings came back on the next play with a screen to Smith, who took it 24 yards for the score.

Minnesota stretched its lead to as many as 27 points on Moss' 44-yard touchdown in the fourth quarter. Backup quarterback Doug Pederson threw touchdown passes of 11 yards to Tyrone Davis and 16 yards to Bill Schroeder in the final 3:03 to ease the stinging loss somewhat. Pederson, however, suffered a broken jaw in the process. It was uncertain how long he will be sidelined.

The loss for the Packers was their first at Lambeau Field since a 17-14 loss to the St. Louis Rams in the season opener on Sept. 3, 1995. It was the first loss to a Central Division opponent at Lambeau Field since a 30-10 loss to the Chicago Bears on Oct. 25, 1992. The Packers slipped to 37-5 at home under Holmgren.

"Give credit to the Vikings," said Holmgren. "They played a wonderful football game. Their offense was spectacular. Their wide receivers did a great job. Randle, I thought, had a wonderful game. We couldn't keep up with them. Not tonight."

Pack's Possessions

Start	Plays	First half			Time
		Yds.	Result		
GB26	7	31	PUNT		4:46
GB33	10	45	FG		3:21
GB35	3	31	INT		1:19
MV44	4	9	DOWN		2:06
GB32	4	8	PUNT		1:47

Second half

Start	Plays	Yds.	Result	Time
GB21	10	59	INT	5:25
GB20	2	-3	INT	0:55
GB37	5	20	PUNT	2:06
GB35	6	65	TD	1:17
GB42	11	58	TD	2:18

Vikings' Possessions

Start	Plays	First half			Time
		Yds.	Result		
MV20	14	65	FG		7:00
MV20	5	80	TD		2:44
MV24	4	76	TD		1:56
MV35	3	8	FUMBLE		1:01
MV35	4	65	TD		0:47
MV11	6	31	HALF		2:56
Second half					
MV46	9	48	FG		3:43
MV20	13	79	FG		7:21
MV43	4	57	TD		2:20
MV1	6	22	PUNT		3:50
GB37	1	-1	GAME		0:45

Nightmarish night for secondary

By Matt Tevsh

Lightning struck in two forms last Monday night in Green Bay. One was the natural form created by Mother Nature, and the other was the one formed by the "purple passer eaters" known as Cris Carter, Jake Reed, and Randy Moss.

On a rainy, blustery October night, the trio of Vikings' wide receivers combined with 13-year veteran quarterback Randall Cunningham for a dominating night at Lambeau Field which led to a convincing 37-24 victory over the Packers.

Consider the staggering game totals:

— Cunningham's 442 yards passing were the most allowed by the Packers in team history.

— His four touchdown passes marked the first time since 1985 that an opposing quarterback has thrown for four touchdowns against the Packers (Dan Marino had five on Dec. 8, 1985).

— Carter, Reed, and Moss combined for 398 yards receiving on 17 catches including six receptions of 33 yards or more. Moss with 190 yards receiving and Carter with 119 marked the first time since 1995 that two opposing receivers went over the 100-yard mark in a single game against the Packers. Moss' 190 yards were also the third highest single game total in Vikings' history.

As a result of the above, the Vikings stunned the Packer faithful by dropping the Packers, thus ending the team's 25-game

home winning streak and causing them to fall into second place in the NFC Central Division. Before a national audience on *Monday Night Football*, the Packer secondary endured a

nightmarish evening, and the Vikings proved that their offense can be as potent as advertised.



Moss

"Their offense was spectacular," said head coach Mike Holmgren. "Those wide receivers did a great job, Randall I

thought had a wonderful game, and we couldn't keep up with them. Not tonight."

"You can't take nothing away from them," said Packer cornerback Tyrone Williams. "They were the better team today. Moss was the better man today. He was in position and the guy just went up and got the ball."

The Vikings made it clear early in the game what their game plan was going to be. They came out with their guns blazing and attacked the Packer secondary down the field. Furthermore, Cunningham came into the game as the NFL's top-rated quarterback, starting his third game of the year for the injured Brad Johnson. He did nothing to disprove his rating following up his four-touchdown performance two weeks ago with four more touchdowns Monday night.

What was particularly frustrating for Packer defensive backs was that many of

Cunningham's passes were of the "jump ball" variety. Repeatedly he threw to his bigger receivers utilizing the height advantage over the Packer defensive backs, even though it appeared they had tight coverage.

"It was like they were playing basketball with the ball — throwing it and catching it," said safety Darren Sharper. "That's something we have to try to prevent."

Holmgren does not buy into the belief that many of the receptions were by luck.

"It happened too often," he said of the "jump ball" passes. "I wouldn't call it a fluke. I would just say we'll have to look harder at the film to see and come up with some sort of answer. There were a couple of times I thought we were in pretty good position and they made plays."

Therein lies the story of the night for the Packers. The secondary's inability to adjust to the Vikings' size and turn around in time to defend an incoming pass was a major factor in the outcome. Williams, however, said there was a reason for the Packers' apparently lack of awareness for the ball.

"We've got certain defenses that call for certain techniques that we plan," said Williams. "Any time we're not looking back, there's a reason for that — the defense that's called."

It was the rookie, Moss, who turned some heads and hurt the Packers the most down the field. He has benefitted from the play of Carter and Reed this year being able to thrive in one-on-one coverage. His average of 38 yards per

catch on five catches in the game could have been even better if his 75-yard touchdown reception on the Vikings' third play of scrimmage was not called back due to a holding penalty. That play, however, set the tone for the game.

"We knew he (Moss) was a good player coming into the football game," said Holmgren. "He started off strong... but it's almost unfair to start piling too much stuff on him. He is a fine player and he certainly had a fine night."

On the Vikings' second possession of the game, Cunningham hit Reed for a 56-yard touchdown pass to put the Vikings up, 10-3. Cornerback Craig Newsome turned around late on the play, just as Reed made the catch. Reed then spun around and ran the final 25 yards to paydirt.

Later in the quarter, the Vikings answered Roell Preston's kickoff return for a touchdown with a Moss 52-yard touchdown reception. This time Williams was the culprit with Moss leaping over his back for the catch. Moss also added a 41-yard catch in the second quarter leading to a Robert Smith 24-yard touchdown reception and a 24-10 halftime lead for Minnesota.

Moss administered the final blow in the fourth quarter when his 44-yard touchdown reception put the Vikings up 37-10 with 10:16 left in the game, thus putting an exclamation point on a forgetful night for the Packers.

"We played our worst game at the wrong time," said Williams.



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NFL STANDINGS



NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Eastern Division

	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA
Dallas	3	2	0	.600	135	82
N.Y. Giants	2	3	0	.400	92	111
Arizona	2	3	0	.400	81	114
Washington	0	5	0	.000	74	169
Philadelphia	0	5	0	.000	52	137

Central Division

	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA
Minnesota	5	0	0	1.000	166	96
PACKERS	4	1	0	.800	135	107
Tampa Bay	2	3	0	.400	75	99
Chicago	1	4	0	.200	109	126
Detroit	1	4	0	.200	107	138

Western Division

	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA
San Francisco	3	1	0	.750	133	86
Atlanta	3	1	0	.750	107	80
New Orleans	3	1	0	.750	89	74
St. Louis	1	3	0	.250	99	115
Carolina	0	4	0	.000	81	126

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

Eastern Division

	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA
New England	3	1	0	.750	107	76
Miami	3	1	0	.750	67	42
N.Y. Jets	2	2	0	.500	104	75
Buffalo	1	3	0	.250	80	84
Indianapolis	1	4	0	.200	57	128

Central Division

	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA
Jacksonville	4	0	0	1.000	96	71
Pittsburgh	3	1	0	.750	50	56
Baltimore	2	2	0	.500	78	78
Cincinnati	1	3	0	.250	78	95
Tennessee	1	3	0	.250	68	81

Western Division

	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA
Denver	5	0	0	1.000	182	93
Kansas City	4	1	0	.800	108	63
Seattle	3	2	0	.600	111	58
Oakland	3	2	0	.600	81	111
San Diego	2	3	0	.400	64	95

NFL WEEK 5

(Central Daylight Time)

Sunday, Sept. 27

Open date: Baltimore, Cincinnati,
Jacksonville, Pittsburgh, St. Louis, Tennessee
Sunday, Oct. 4

at Atlanta 51, Carolina 23
Dallas 31, at Washington 10
at Chicago 31, Detroit 27
at New York Jets 20, Miami 9
New England 30, at New Orleans 27
at Indianapolis 17, San Diego 12
at Buffalo 26, San Francisco 21
Oakland 23, at Arizona 20
at Tampa Bay 20, New York Giants 3
at Denver 41, Philadelphia 16
at Kansas City 17, Seattle 6

Monday, Oct. 5

Minnesota 37, at Green Bay 24

NFL WEEK 6

Open date: Detroit, Green Bay,
Minnesota, Tampa Bay
Sunday, Oct. 11

Buffalo at Indianapolis 12:01 p.m.
Carolina at Dallas 12:01 p.m.
Kansas City at New England 12:01 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Cincinnati 12:01 p.m.
San Francisco at New Orleans 12:01 p.m.
Tennessee at Baltimore 12:01 p.m.
Washington at Philadelphia 12:01 p.m.
Chicago at Arizona 3:05 p.m.
Denver at Seattle 3:15 p.m.
N.Y. Jets at St. Louis 3:15 p.m.
San Diego at Oakland 3:15 p.m.
Atlanta at N.Y. Giants 7:20 p.m.
Monday, Oct. 12
Miami at Jacksonville 7:20 p.m.

QUICK LOOK

Packers record: 4-1.

Vikings record: 5-0.

Attendance: 59,849.

Telling statistic: Vikings quarterback Randall Cunningham threw for 442 yards - the most an opposing quarterback has ever thrown against the Green Bay Packers. He completed 20 of 32 passes, tossed four touchdowns and did not throw an interception.

Turning point: With the Packers down 17-10 with about nine minutes left in the first half and at the Minnesota 34, quarterback Brett Favre attempts to complete a pass to tight end Mark Chmura at the Viking 8. Chmura turns the wrong way and Minnesota safety Orlando Thomas intercepts the pass and returns its 27 yards.

Packers highlights: The Packers gain 102 yards rushing, including 55 on eight carries by Travis Jervey.

Kickoff return specialist Roell Preston runs back a kickoff 101 yards for a touchdown in the second quarter. He also sets a new team record with 256 kickoff return yards.

Backup quarterback Doug Pederson throws two touchdown passes in the fourth quarter.

Packers lowlights: Green Bay allows 545 yards of total offense.

Quarterback Brett Favre throws three interceptions.

The Packer defense forces Minnesota to punt only once in the entire game.

-by Mark Feldmann

Scoring summary

First quarter: Gary Anderson 33-yard field goal at 3:14. Key plays: After a sloppy start that included a touchdown negated by a holding penalty, Minnesota went to work. Quarterback Randall Cunningham found running back Robert Smith on a screen pass for 14 yards to get the ball into Packer territory. On third-and-seven from the Packer 42, Cunningham connected with Cris Carter for 18 yards on the right sideline for a first down. The drive stalled after Cunningham misfired to Greg DeLong and David Palmer gained six yards on third-and-seven from the Green Bay 21. Drive: 65 yards, 14 plays, 7:00 elapsed. **Vikings 3, Packers 0.**

Second quarter: Ryan Longwell 40-yard field goal at 14:53. Key plays: Quarterback Brett Favre connected with wide receiver Antonio Freeman down the middle for 17 yards to give the Packers a first down at the Minnesota 40. Running back Travis Jervey ran for 10 yards a play later. Favre then hooked up with Jervey on a screen pass for eight yards to set up the field goal. Drive: 45 yards, 10 plays, 3:21 elapsed. **Packers 3, Vikings 3.**

Second quarter: Jake Reed 56-yard touchdown pass from Cunningham at 12:09. Key plays: Cunningham started the drive by completing a pass to Carter for 13 yards. He then found Reed for 10 more. On second down from his own 44, Cunningham connected with Reed along the right sideline. Reed caught the ball at the Packer 20, beat Packer cornerback Craig Newsome and danced into the end zone. Extra point by Anderson good. Drive: 80 yards, 5 plays, 2:44 elapsed. **Vikings 10, Packers 3.**

Second quarter: Roell Preston 101-yard kickoff return for touchdown at 11:52. After the quick strike touchdown by Minnesota, Preston took Mitch Berger's kickoff a yard deep in the end zone, dashed left, got a block from Bill Schroeder and jaunted down the left sideline. Robert Tate's lunge couldn't keep Preston from scoring. Extra point by Longwell good. Drive: 101 yards, 0 plays, 0:17 elapsed. **Packers 10, Vikings 10.**

Second quarter: Randy Moss 52-yard touchdown pass from Cunningham at 9:56. Key plays: The Vikings struck back again. Cunningham hit Andrew Glover for six yards, then connected with Carter for 16 yards to put the ball on the Viking 48. Cunningham then lofted a pass to Moss down the left sideline. Moss leaped above cornerback Tyrone Williams, caught the ball at the 15 and ran in for the score. Extra point by Anderson good. Drive: 76 yards, four plays, 1:56 elapsed. **Vikings 17, Packers 10.**

Second quarter: Smith 24-yard touchdown pass from Cunningham at 4:43. Key plays: After the Viking defense stopped the Packers on fourth-and-1 from the Viking 35, Minnesota needed just four plays to score. Cunningham found Moss down the left sideline for 41 yards on second down to get the ball to the Packer 24. On second down, Cunningham connected with Smith on a screen pass to the left. Smith, using his blockers beautifully, walked in untouched for the score. Extra point by Anderson good. Drive: 65 yards, four plays, 47 seconds elapsed. **Vikings 24, Packers 10.**

Third quarter: Anderson 25-yard field goal at 11:17. Key plays: On third-and-six from the Viking 50, Cunningham beat a Packer blitz to find Carter for 33 yards and a first down at the Packer 17. Runs by LeRooy Hoard and Smith gave the Vikes a first and goal at the Packer 6, but Cunningham misfired three straight times before the field goal attempt. Drive: 48 yards,

nine plays, 3:43 elapsed. **Vikings 27, Packers 10.**

Fourth quarter: Anderson 19-yard field goal at 13:31. Key plays: Vikings took over at their own 20 after Favre threw an interception in the end zone to Robert Griffith. On third-and-seven from the 23, Cunningham connected with Carter for nine yards and a first down. On third-and-8 from the Viking 34, Cunningham found Carter for another 14 yards. On third-and-14 from the 44, Cunningham hit Moss with a 46-yard strike along the left sideline to get the ball to the Packer 10. Three running plays netted nine yards before the kick. Drive: 79 yards, 13 plays, 7:21 elapsed. **Vikings 30, Packers 10.**

Fourth quarter: Moss 45-yard touchdown pass from Cunningham at 10:16. Key plays: The Vikings again scored in a flurry after Favre threw his third interception of the game to Griffith. After three runs by Smith, Cunningham went deep to Moss, who jumped in front of Tyrone Williams and wrestled the ball away for the score. Extra point by Anderson good. Drive: 57 yards, four plays, 2:20 elapsed. **Vikings 37, Packers 10.**

Fourth quarter: Tyrone Davis 11-yard touchdown pass from quarterback Doug Pederson at 3:03. Key plays: Doug Pederson replaced Favre as the Packer quarterback and on his first play hit Freeman for 29 yards to the Viking 36. He then hit Schroeder for eight yards and fullback William Henderson for six more on fourth down. An apparent Viking interception was nullified by a roughing the passer penalty against Duane Clemons, and Pederson hit Davis for the score on the next play. Extra point by Longwell was good. Drive: 65 yards, six plays, 1:17 elapsed. **Vikings 37, Packers 17.**

Fourth quarter: Schroeder 16-yard touchdown pass from Pederson at 0:53. Key plays: Packers started their drive after rookie safety Scott McGarrahan recovered an onside kick. Pederson then completed four straight passes to move the Packers to the Minnesota 30. On second down from the Viking 16, Pederson zipped a pass to Schroeder for the score. Extra point by Longwell was good. Drive: 58 yards, 11 plays, 2:18 elapsed. **Vikings 37, Packers 24.**

-by Mark Feldmann

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Favre, offense unable to get in any rhythm

By Brett Christopherson
and Mark Feldmann

If looks could kill, then the expression on Brett Favre's face after Green Bay's stunning 37-24 loss to the Minnesota Vikings Monday night at water-clogged Lambeau Field would have doomed each and every person taking up residence in the team's media auditorium.

The Packers' quarterback wasn't happy. And he wasn't about to sugarcoat his or his team's performance with a smiling face and some friendly words.

"Yeah, for a lot of reasons," Favre said when asked if Monday night's game ranked as one of his most frustrating. "We got outplayed. I think that's obvious to everyone. We could sit here and blame it on a lot of things. The conditions were terrible and all of that stuff. But (the Vikings) handled it well, and that's what's kind of frustrating. We didn't handle it very well, and they did. They're a good football team, they really are, but if we play like this every week, I'll be sitting here with the same look on my face."

Sure, the Vikings played well — offensively. And that wasn't a surprise given the fact they boast three outstanding receivers in Cris Carter, Jake Reed, and rookie sensation Randy Moss, not to mention one of the game's best running backs in Robert Smith and the ageless Randall Cunningham at quarterback.

But what was a surprise was how well Minnesota's defense looked against a Packer offensive unit many felt would roll up big yardage, especially with Favre at the controls. Instead, Favre completed 13 of 23 passes for just 114 yards and three interceptions. Favre also failed to throw a touchdown pass for the first time in 19 games. His streak of 18 games had been a personal best and second all-time in team history. In the last two games, he has tossed an alarming six interceptions.

Of the three interceptions on Monday, the most devastating came later in the third quarter with Green Bay trailing 27-10. With the ball resting on the Minnesota 20-yard line, Favre rolled right and tried to hit Antonio Freeman near the corner. The ball floated a bit, and just before it arrived at its hopeful destination, Vikings safety Robert Griffith stepped in front and thwarted the score.

"I think all my throws, I threw them where I thought they were going to be," said Favre. "When I had Antonio open in the end zone, the ball curved on me. I could sit here and blame it on the wind, but that happens. You have to play in it."

Packers coach Mike Holmgren said it's a matter of the team relying on the heroics of Favre too much to bail it out.

"We ask so much of him, so much of him as a player," he said. "Until our running game gets going a little bit, maybe (we ask) too much of him."

Injury report: Tight end Jeff Thomason (concussion), linebacker George Koonce (pulled hamstring), left tackle Ross Verba (ankle), safety LeRoy



Photo by Allen Fredrickson

Derrick Mayes (80) is helped off the field by Juran Bolden (46) and Scott McGarrahan (43) after Mayes injured his knee on a punt return.

Butler (ankle sprain), wide receiver Derrick Mayes (sprained knee), return man Roell Preston (leg cramps), safety Pat Terrell (ribs), and quarterback Doug Pederson (broken jaw) were injured in the game.

Butler ended up returning later in the game and should be fine while Pederson, who entered in the fourth, was able to finish things up. His status won't be known until later in the week. Verba was seen later on crutches.

Preston's absence led to Mayes' injury, who was hurt fielding a punt in the fourth quarter. While the severity of Mayes' sprained knee wasn't known afterwards, Holmgren admitted he was concerned.

"Yeah, I'm a little worried about that," he said. "But again, I don't know. When I came (to the media auditorium, team officials) were examining him."

The extent of the injuries to Thomason, Koonce, and Terrell weren't known after the game, either.

Weathering the storm: Hurricane Georges didn't make it up to Lambeau Field Monday night, but apparently one of his lesser relatives did.

Rain and wind blew through Green Bay most of the day, and the drizzle continued most of the night. The downpour turned heavy in the second quarter with some flashes of lightning.

The inclement weather didn't seem to bother the dome-bound Vikings. Quarterback Randall Cunningham threw for 442 yards and four touchdowns against a beleaguered Packer secondary. The Vikings also managed to run the ball for 103 yards, and rolled up 545 yards of total offense.

The mini-maelstrom did seem to bug Brett Favre, who threw three interceptions

for the second game in a row. One of them came in the third quarter as the Packers attempted to rally from a 27-10 Viking lead. Favre moved the offense to the Viking 20, where he fired to a wide open Antonio Freeman in the right side of the end zone. But the wet ball wobbled out of Favre's hand and the lame duck was nabbed by Minnesota safety Robert Griffith.

After the game, Favre said the weather was no excuse for the Packer's poor showing.

"The conditions were terrible, but they handled it well," Favre said. "That was frustrating for us. That they handled it well and we didn't."

Weather won't be a concern on Nov. 22 when the Packers travel to Minneapolis to play the Vikings in the Metrodome.

Grounding it out: The Packer running attack found some new legs against the Vikings.

Running back Travis Jervey, who led the Packers in rushing during the preseason, gained 55 yards on eight carries against Minnesota. The eight carries was a career high, as was the 55 yards.

"I thought Travis did a good job," said Packer coach Mike Holmgren. "I think he showed some speed and his leg did not appear to bother him."

Jervey had been sidelined with a sore hamstring that he suffered covering a punt against the Cincinnati Bengals on Sept. 20.

Right guard Adam Timmerman also was impressed with Jervey's effort.

"Travis did a great job hitting the hole and hitting the hole with explosiveness," Timmerman said. "But we never had a chance to hit our rhythm. The score took us out of our game plan."

Running back Raymont Harris added

Streaks watch

Here are a few streaks that the Packers were able to extend and some that were broken in Monday's 37-24 loss to Minnesota:

98

Quarterback Brett Favre started his 98th straight regular season game, 111th straight overall.

25

Green Bay's regular-season home winning streak was snapped at 25 games.

18

Favre failed to throw at least one touchdown pass for the first time in 19 games.

27 yards on seven carries as the Packers gained a total of 102 yards on the ground.

"The running game was one of the few encouraging things that happened tonight," Holmgren said. "Raymont ran well. We might try to use both of them as the weeks go on."

Holmgren is seeking all the running help he can get as long as Packer running back Dorsey Levens nurses his broken leg back to health. His strength was missed in the second quarter when the Packers faced a second-and-one from the Minnesota 35. Three times the Packers tried to get one yard and three times they failed.

"That was a big play," Holmgren said. "We haven't been able to convert that kind of play and that's troubling."

The Packers acquired running back Darick Holmes in exchange for a fourth-round draft choice earlier in the week, but Holmes only played on special teams.

Extra points: The Packers' Lambeau Field regular season winning streak came to an unwanted end following the loss. The last time Green Bay dropped a game at Lambeau came on Sept. 3, 1995 when it fell to the St. Louis Rams, 17-14. Since then, the Packers had reeled off 25 straight wins in front of the home crowd, the second-longest run in NFL history behind the 27-straight carved out by the Miami Dolphins from 1971-74.

* Preston broke his own team record for kickoff return yardage when he piled up 256 yards on eight returns. Last year, he established the mark when he had 211 yards in Green Bay's loss at Indianapolis Nov. 16.

A good chunk of Preston's total came in the second quarter when he streaked 101 yards for a touchdown, marking the second time he has returned a kickoff at least 100 yards for a score this season. In the opener against Detroit, Preston ran back a kick 100 yards for a touchdown.

Preston's score also allowed him the opportunity to join Travis Williams as the only players in team history to score touchdowns on at least two returns in one season. Williams hit paydirt on four kickoffs in 1967.

* Ryan Longwell etched his name in the Packers record book, as well, after he kicked at least one field goal for the 13th consecutive game.



Photo by Mark A. Wallenfang

Tyrone Williams (37) wrestles for control of the ball in the end zone with the Vikings' Randy Moss (84) on Moss' 44-yard touchdown in the fourth quarter.

White, Holliday earn player of month honors

Reggie White and Vonnice Holliday are rubbing off on each other in a positive way. The two defensive ends, who have lockers next to each other at Lambeau Field and on the road, were each honored by the NFL for their play during the month of September.

White received the NFC Defensive Player of the Month award and Holliday was named NFL Defensive Rookie of the Month.

White, 36, had 5.5 sacks, the second most in the NFC in September, 10 tackles, two forced fumbles and batted down three passes as the Packers went 4-0 in the first four weeks of the season. White, in his 13th season, led a defense that finished the month ranked first overall and first against the run. The Packers' 15 sacks in September tied them for most in the NFC.

Holliday started all four games and had an NFL rookie-leading 4.0 sacks in addition to 14 tackles, three passes defended and a fumble recovery. In his return home to North Carolina against the Panthers in Charlotte on Sept. 27, Holliday shined with two sacks.

"I think both of us know that we have to continue to play at that level," said



White



Holliday

White. "This probably won't mean nothing to him (Holliday) until later on, but it's an honor for both of us to get it, but like I said, we still have a long season ahead of us."

Holliday finished with eight tackles and a fumble recovery in Green Bay's 37-24 loss to Minnesota on Monday night. White had three tackles and a pass defended.

Running back Fred Taylor of the Jacksonville Jaguars had 290 yards rushing and was named NFL Offensive Rookie of the Month. San Francisco 49ers quarterback Steve Young earned NFC Offensive Player of the Month while Detroit Lions kick returner Terry Fair was named NFC Special Teams Player of the Month for September.

— by Todd Korth

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GREAT FOR GRILLING



Eyes in the sky

Assistant coaches' point of view during games from booth is advantageous

By Tim Froberg

It's a room with a view, a watchtower whirling with modern technology where some of football's finest minds dissect the game and help provide direction at a distance.

Welcome to the coaching booths of the National Football League.

The action may be on the field, but in the booth, the games within the game are unraveled by coaching staff members and quickly passed on to the sideline bosses in a never-ending communication relay that is critical to the game's outcome.

"It's an amazing process," said Ken Flajole, the Packers' defensive assistant-quality control coach. "It's unique from the standpoint that you have so much information available to you in such a short time that if you have a breakdown, you can figure it out in a hurry."

Flajole is one of five Packer assistants who do their game-day coaching from the booth. Others who usually spend their Sundays upstairs are offensive coordinator Sherman Lewis, linebackers coach Jim Lind, tight ends assistant line coach Mike Sherman and offensive assistant-quality control coach Gary Reynolds. Ted Thompson, the team's director of player



Photo by Chip Manthey

Defensive coordinator Fritz Shurmur communicates with the coaches upstairs in the booth via his headset.

personnel, also sits in the coaching booth and provides assistance.

Technology aside, the biggest coaching

advantage the booth offers is a sharper view of the game than what's available on a crowded, chaotic sideline.

"It's just a lot more advantageous position to watch from, because you can see so much more," said Lewis. "Sometimes, you can almost see things happening before they happen. It's hard for the coaches to see down there. It really is."

Lind is also a veteran of the coaching booth, having served in the booth in each of his seven years with the Packers. He previously spent nine years as a head coach in the collegiate ranks, including four seasons (1987-91) at the University of Wisconsin Eau Claire.

"You're doing everything up there from making sure your substitutions get on the field to just getting a different angle on a play and communicating what you saw," said Lind.

"In general, you like to think you get a much better overall view, but it depends on the coach. Some coaches can see just about everything down there. But I think you kind of see the big picture up in the booth."

In addition, the distance from the field allows coaches in the booth to gain a more rational, less emotional take on the action.

"It's just a lot calmer up there," said Lewis. "You don't have all the people around you screaming."

Flajole added: "Coaching on the sideline, you're more into the emotion of the game because you're in closer contact with the players. It's a little bit more analytical up in the box where you're more devoid of emotions. In some ways, it's almost like you're watching film of the game."

Constant communication

In the booth, the coaches chart opposing team's tendencies, formations and various looks, then quickly relay them electronically to Packer coach Mike Holmgren, defensive coordinator Fritz Shurmur and other headset-wearing coaches along the sidelines. Exchanges between the coaches in the booth and on the sidelines are constant every play. Offensive coaches are all wired to speak with one another, and the same goes for defensive coaches.

To illustrate the diversity of the communication process, Sherman has offensive line coach Tom Lovat available on one side of his headset, and Holmgren on the other.

"You need good communication on every play, because the speed and tempo of the game make it a real challenge to



Lewis



Lind



Sherman



Flajole



Thompson



Reynolds

coach," said Sherman.

In addition to having a television screen with instant replay available, coaches in the booth also receive a heat-processed photo graphic of each play, which shoots out through a laser printer. The photo graphics equipment is also available on the sideline.

"It gives us a little better idea of where everything fits on defense," said Flajole. "If there was a breakdown on a defense, you can find out if it was an alignment mistake, or whatever, and get a pretty good handle on what went wrong. There's a lot of information there. You're not really searching to find out what happened. You find out pretty quick where the problem occurred."

Prior to coming to Green Bay last winter, Flajole was a collegiate assistant for 21 years at schools such as Nevada, Hawaii, Missouri, Texas El Paso, Washington and Pacific Lutheran. He points out that the main technological difference from a coaching standpoint between the two levels is that audiovisual equipment is prohibited in college football.

"It's against the rules in college, where in the pros it's the rule of thumb," Flajole said. "You can't see everything up in the booth and if you miss something in college, it's like, what happened? In the NFL, because of all the accessories available, you can get it figured out."

Always working together

Teamwork is essential among the coaches, but every coach in the booth has one specific area of concentration. For example, Flajole, who assists Bob Valesente with the defensive backs, focuses on upfield routes by the opposition's receivers, while Sherman communicates steadily with Lovat on blitzes and defen-

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Coaches

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

sive fronts. In addition to keeping a keen eye on his linebackers, Lind works with defensive line coach Larry Brooks on frontal formations.

While Holmgren calls the actual offensive plays, Lewis works closely with the head coach, pointing out vulnerable areas to attack and suggesting plays.

"As the game goes on tendencies develop and it's our job to communicate them," Lewis said. "We have certain ideas going into the game about what a team is going to do and preparation helps you in both the booth and on the field."

The coaches' booth is also staffed with technical workers, who ensure that if an equipment problem pops up, it won't last long.

"The phones will go out on us sometimes - that's the biggest problem - but if they go out, they get fixed in a hurry," said Lewis. "I can't think of any situation here where they've been out more than one series or whatever. If it's raining real bad, it can be frustrating because they got wet, but we've never had any major problems."

Usually, the coaches in the booth gather with the team and the remainder of the coaching staff in the locker room at the intermission. But they must hustle since there is only a 12-minute break between halves.

"We get down there as quick as we can and usually you have an elevator that takes you close to the dressing room," said Flajole. "But that's not always the case. In Denver (this past preseason), the distance from the booth to the locker room was so

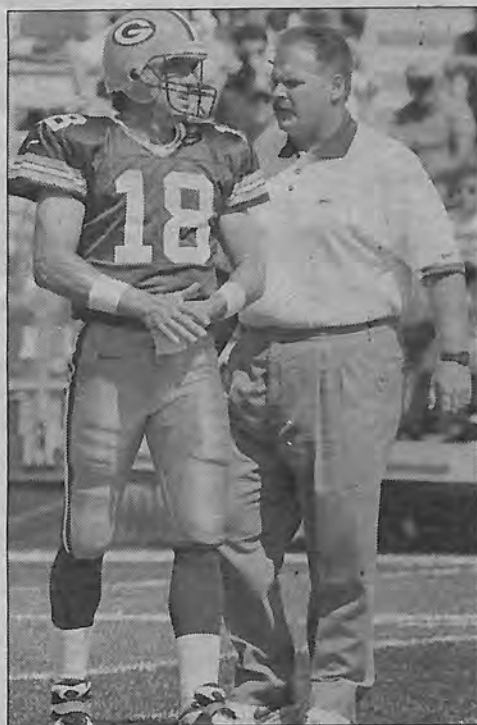


Photo by Dave Fredrickson

Quarterbacks coach Andy Reid (right) stays on the field during games.

great that you had to walk around the concourse to get there. Sometimes, logistics don't permit."

Health a factor

Occasionally, health factors into a decision to place a coach in the booth. For example, there was a brief period when Lovat was stationed up in the booth while he was recovering from knee surgery and didn't have the mobility to escape potentially hazardous situations such as the one that occurred in the 1996 NFC champi-



Photo by Chip Manthey

Defensive backs coach Bob Valesente communicates with players on the bench after he speaks with coaches in the booth.

onship game at Dallas when Packer offensive assistant Gil Haskell sustained a fractured skull among other injuries following a sideline collision.

However, none of the current Packer coaches can ever remember a coach requesting a coaching booth seat due to safety concerns.

While coaching from the booth may not be as exhilarating as that on the sidelines,

the Packer assistants accept it as an important part of their job.

"It's a little different and you miss being on the sidelines at times, but we're all in this together and it's all about how you can best help the team," said Flajole.

Lind adds: "There's an excitement on the sideline that's not in the booth, but it's no big deal. As long as we win. That's the big thing."

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Health a key to success of D-line

Larry Brooks, 48, is in his fifth year as the Packers' defensive line coach and 24th season in professional football as either a player or coach. He was named to the Pro Bowl for five straight seasons from 1976-80 and also was an All-Pro selection in 1977, '78 and '79 while playing defensive tackle for the then-Los Angeles Rams. After an 11-year career in the NFL, Brooks served as an assistant defensive line coach with the Rams under defensive coordinator Fritz Shurmur from 1983-90, then reunited with Shurmur in Green Bay in 1994. He recently took time to answer questions with Packer Report editor Todd Korth:

Do you feel that this defensive line is better than in 1996?

"It's still early in my opinion to try and class it as being better. I think each group has a different uniqueness. In '96, you had Sean Jones at the end. He was a real leader, a finesse type player. Then there was Reggie, Gil (Brown) and Santana (Dotson). Now we've got Vonnie (Holliday) at the right end. He's a physical young kid who's just having a good time going out and playing.

"I think as far as establishing or comparing, you have to let the season play out a bit and maybe at the end you can draw something to it."

Do you feel the line as a whole concentrated on getting in better physical shape as a whole in the off-season?

Larry Brooks



**Coach's
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DEFENSIVE LINE

"I don't know if they concentrated on being in better shape. I think the guys are healthy right now. If you look at last year as a comparison, what happened to us is you had Reggie with a bad back, you had Gil with assorted injuries, Gabe (Wilkins) was getting banged up a bit. I think right now we're off to a good start because everybody is here and everybody is healthy.

"If you look at the conditioning part of it, because you're working, you're going to be in better shape. For example, we had to take Reggie and not practice him some days last year, therefore, he couldn't get in as good as shape than if he was practicing. It's kind of a combination of things. If you're injured, you can't do certain things, so you might lose a little bit. If you look at it right now, being healthy is probably the best factor as to why the guys are playing so well."

Have the linemen done sprints and acceleration drills after practice prior to this year?

"We've done certain things. It's been different. Last year, because of the pounding and the injuries, we went inside and ran more on the treadmill. Now, that everybody is healthy, we've been able to run out on the grass. I think what's happened more than anything, is you guys in the media are seeing the guys working out outside where before they did most of it inside on treadmills."

What does it tell you when you see Reggie White get the NFC Defensive Player of the Month award for September and Vonnie Holliday the NFL Defensive Rookie of the Month for September?

"It's unique that you have two ends do

something like that in the same month. But as far as we're concerned, we knew that if Reggie is healthy, he's always a force to contend with. As we've gotten used to Vonnie, we can see that if he continues to go with an upward spiral, all of these good things will happen down the road.

"We're pretty fortunate to have two guys who are real competitors and who go out and play very hard."

What do you feel has been the key to the line's success this year?

"That's a tough one to put in a couple of words, but I think mainly it's because you've got a guy like Reggie who has come back and dedicated his last year to getting the best out of this year that he can get out of it. Then you've got a healthy Gilbert Brown, a steady guy in Santana Dotson, and probably the surprise of it all is Vonnie Holliday coming in and playing as well as he has played so far. You've got a lot of guys with individual things that have happened to them that have enabled them to play at a high level this year."

In hindsight, do you feel that it was a blessing that Gabe Wilkins signed a big contract with the San Francisco 49ers in the off-season?

"I guess you just look at it that in this business today you're going to lose players. You've got to give our guys across the hall a lot of credit for being able to go out and keep working to bring in players. We were a little lucky to get Vonnie because of the way the draft falls. You really have no control over that thing. We moved up and it wasn't a factor that he had to be there, but we got lucky in that instance. With the rest of the guys that we've got - Vaughn Booker and Bob Kuberski is emerging - I think our front office people do a good job of going out and bringing enough people to give you an opportunity to find somebody."

When did you first realize that Holliday has the potential to start and play in the NFL?

"I think after about a week or two in training camp. He was competing against Ross Verba, who is probably one of the top tackles in this league, and holding his own. We kind of saw that a little bit coming out of college, but to move out to end, everybody was wondering how he would relate to being out 'in space' and handling those

things. He's a determined young man who has a lot of confidence in himself and he works hard. That's probably some of the biggest assets he has. As he blossomed, everyone kept saying that he can do it. He passed every test out there, and as long as he keeps passing those tests he's going to be a successful young man out there."

Do you feel Holliday is better at end or tackle?

"For what we do with him now, you have to say end because in our 'base' situation he's playing all end. When we go into a 'dime' (six defensive backs), he moves in to tackle. He doesn't play any tackle in our base operation, he's strictly a defensive end. That's where he's getting his primary work. That's where we need him at right now."

Gilbert Brown seems happier this year. Do you think he is enjoying this season a little more?

"I've never sat down and talked to him about not enjoying last year. Because of the fact that the injury factor kept him out of a lot of games, I'm sure he couldn't be happy about that. This year, so far, he's been healthy and has been a big contributor. When you play and play well, those things usually make you pretty happy in this business."

What is a "rip move?" Vonnie Holliday says that Santana Dotson has the best rip move in the NFL. Do you agree?

"Some people call it an arm lift. Some people have a different term. It's when you take your arm and lift it up under the arm pit of the offensive lineman.

"I don't know if (Dotson's rip move) is the best, but it's been successful for him. He does a lot of different things in there, but I guess it's high on his list of things that he likes to do. If it's the best, I don't know."

Do you feel Reggie could play beyond this season if he wanted to?

"If he wanted to, I'm sure he could. He's always shown that if he says he wants to do something and he makes his mind up that he really wants to do it, I'm sure he could come back and play again. His skills, as long as he is healthy, have not diminished to the point where he can't perform at a high level. Sometimes it's more the mental part of it. If he mentally thinks he can do, I'm sure he can do it."

"That's a factor that I'm sure at some time this year he'll have to make another decision. I don't know if he will or not. He's said this is his last year, so I take him at his word that it is."

Have you ever played with or been around guys as crazy as Jack Youngblood or Fred Dryer?

"I don't know if they were crazy. They made the game enjoyable because they worked hard, but they knew how to enjoy themselves off the field and they knew how to enjoy Sundays. Sometimes you can go out and play this game and it can be a chore to achieve what you want to achieve. You can put so much pressure on yourself that it's not any fun, but those guys always seemed to come out of the game enjoying what they've done, and it made it fun for me to play with them."

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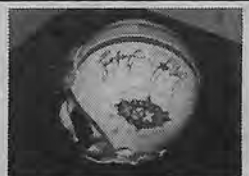
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Revved up

Intense Booker lends experience, depth at defensive end for the Packers

Imposing Vaughn Jamel Booker, who spells the estimable Reggie White at defensive end in his current role, is a man of varied experience and accomplishments. In addition to pursuing a career as a professional football player, he has – at one time or another – been a soldier, a boxer and a radio talk show host.

It is a kind of personal pattern that began when Booker was an all-city performer at Cincinnati's Taft High School, where he had three-faceted responsibilities as a defensive tackle, tight end and placekicker.

In the overall process, the 30-year-old Ohioan has developed an all-out approach to playing the game of football that has won him praise from the Packers' veteran defensive coordinator, Fritz Shurmur, who says of Number 96, "The best part about him is that his motor runs all the time."

Asked if he considered it to be an accurate description, Booker nodded approvingly and rejoined, "Well, I try to keep it running. As long as my motor's running, you know, then you can't park the car in a garage. So I try to keep it running at all times and I've tried to make that my forte ever since I've been in the NFL."

Where might that have come from?

"Just from my background of trying to take advantage of every situation that I've been faced with. Ever since I started playing football," said Vaughn, the possessor of a resonant baritone voice that presumably stood him in good stead on his radio talk show. "Playing two positions in high school has really gotten me in shape and I try to really live up to that."

Has he always been that self-motivated?

"No, not always," Booker acknowledged. "Really, the motivation and the discipline afterwards came when I joined



Lee Rummel
Featured columnist

the military (the United States Army). I mean I've always had discipline in my life but never so much as when I joined the military."

Vaughn's on-field intensity already has earned him the ultimate compliment from the man he replaces, Reggie White. The "Minister of Defense" announced, early on in the season, that he was "comfortable" having Booker come into the game at his left end spot, whenever he needs a respite.

Tantamount to the Good Housekeeping Seal of Approval, mention of it brought a smile to Booker's countenance.

"That's a good feeling," Booker confessed. "I mean, I like hearing that from my teammates. And, as you know, Reggie has been voted the Defensive Player of the Month (in the NFC) – and it feels good to know that I came in and gave him a spell so he could get his rest and come back in and get his sacks."



Photo by Dick Peyton

Vaughn Booker (96) celebrates after the Packers stopped the Detroit Lions in the fourth quarter of Green Bay's season-opening victory on Sept. 6.

"Every little part counts," he appended, with a chuckle.

His relationship with White, he is pleased to report, is excellent. "Most definitely," Booker says. "I respect him wholeheartedly. Before I even got here, I looked up to him, and it's just a pleasure to play alongside of him."

In addition to having impressed the Rev. White with his football persona and contributions, Booker also appears to have found an immediate home in the Packers family as a whole after having spent four seasons in Kansas City.

"For sure," Vaughn emphasized. "I had a good four years in Kansas City but, as you know, in the NFL you have the opportunity to play on different teams sometimes. And when I got here, these guys welcomed me with open arms and made my transition that much easier for me. So I feel very comfortable being here and that we're 4-and-0 and looking to stay undefeated."

"And, hopefully, these guys will give me my first ring."

Booker, incidentally, says he finds "a lot of similarities" between his experience in Kansas City and the one he is undergoing in Green Bay, "as far as the defense, and both defensive coordinators, Fritz Shurmur and Gunther Cunningham. They're both very intense, they get their point across and expect you to go out there and do your job."

"As far as the defense overall, the

level they play at seems to be the same. We had Pro Bowlers there. We have Pro Bowlers here. And I look forward to just going out there and playing with these guys as I did in Kansas City."

NFL title is everyone's goal

What, Booker was asked, had been his initial reaction upon learning he had been traded to the Packers (for Darius Holland)?

"Well, first of all, I didn't even hear the team that I got traded to. So when I first heard I got traded, I was just stunned. You know, I didn't see it coming at all. So once it sank in and then I found out I was going to the Packers, 'Hey, there's a lot of teams in the NFL worse than the Packers to go to.' I was happy about the fact that I was in Green Bay and that those guys had been to the Super Bowl, so I knew that Green Bay knew how to get there. And I was just looking forward to getting there myself."

Speaking of "getting there," how might he compare the current Packers team with the highly successful Kansas City teams he had played on before coming to Tittletown.

"I would say it's a lot better," Booker replied. "I've been on some good teams in Kansas City, but this is the first time I've ever been 4-and-0. And these guys don't look to be slowing down. And one of the

Packer trivia winner

Robert Harris of Lakeville, Minn., won a copy of "Packer Legends in Facts II: The Holmgren Era" by correctly answering a trivia question published in the Sept. 19 issue of *Packer Report*.

Harris was selected from a number of people who correctly answered that the Packers played their first game in County Stadium in Milwaukee on Sept. 27, 1953.

To win: all answers must be postmarked no later than one week from the date on the cover of the *Packer Report*. If there is more than one correct answer, a drawing will be held to select a winner. The books, which retail for \$29.95, will be mailed out by Tech/Data Publications, Germantown, Wis., (414) 251-7027.

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To enter: write your name, address, phone number, and answer on a postcard and send to: *Packer Report*, "trivia contest," 1317 Lombardi Access Road, Green Bay, WI 54304.

CORRECTION: The answer to the Sept. 12 trivia question printed in the Oct. 3 issue of *Packer Report* was incorrect. Paul Hornung and Phil Vandersey were taken by the expansion New Orleans Saints in 1967, not Jim Taylor and Hornung.

SEE BOOKER NEXT PAGE

Booker

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

things that I know about Coach Holmgren is that he knows how to win in the playoffs and the postseason. And I'm not saying that (Kansas City head coach) Marty Schottenheimer doesn't. But it's just that in my four years at Kansas City, we never



Booker

got past the first round, so you have to go with the facts. I just know that this team is really hungry to get back to the Super Bowl because I think they feel like they came up short. Just making it there isn't their dream any

more. It's just going there and actually winning it."

On the subject of the defense, he says, "I think it is the best defense I've ever been on only because the talent up front — the starters — is so good. And then we have a lot of backup players that can also come into the game and give a great contribution to what we're trying to do. So I think it is the best defense I've ever been on."

Booker also has been singularly impressed with the quarterback he "faces" every day in practice, quarterback Brett Favre.

"Man, I've never seen an arm on a quarterback — ever — like his since I've played football," he marveled. "You see it on TV — and I know as lot of the fans see it on TV — and they're even kind of surprised at the things that he does. But to actually see him do it, you know, in practice and be on the field with him, it's just amazing."

Pre-NFL experiences

Coming out of college, and prior to joining the Chiefs, Booker spent two seasons in the Canadian Football League with the Winnipeg Blue Bombers, a stint he describes as "a lot of fun for me."

"The Canadian Football League is a lot different than the NFL. The game seems to be a lot faster and a lot of passing, which made it different for me. Growing up in the U.S. you just get used to certain rules of football. In Canada, it's just those little here-and-theres that make that game a little bit more fun — only because it's different from what you're normally used to."

One of Booker's most impressive achievements on the gridiron came during his college career at the University of Cincinnati when he amassed the astounding total of 24 tackles in a game against East Carolina to set a school record.

"That was one of those times in my life where I was in very good shape, and I played middle linebacker at the time," he said, modestly adding, "so the guys up front took up a lot of blocks for me and just allowed me to run around and make tackles."

Addressing his part-time role as a placekicker in high school, he said, "I was pretty good. I wasn't a soccer-style kicker. I had the big square-toed shoe so I was

pretty much front-end, but I made a lot field goals, I kicked a lot of kickoffs into the end zone because our coach made it fun for us. We had pizza parties and, depending on how many kickoffs I made into the end zone, depended how many pieces we actually had.

"And those guys," Vaughn said, laughing, "were kinda hungry."

Could he possibly fill in for Packers placekicker Ryan Longwell in a pinch?

"It would have to be a really hard pinch for Mike (Holmgren) to want to put me into the game," Booker chuckled. "But, if it came down to it, I wouldn't mind giving it a try. It would be better than not having anybody."

Boxer, radio talk-show host

Looking back on the three-year hiatus between his first and second seasons of his college football career, Booker said he had entered the service following his freshman year at Cincinnati "because I had gotten married and had a little kid. And, as you know, in college you can't get paid, you can't make any money, you can't get a job. So I took the challenge of taking care of my family instead of staying in school. And I planned on going back to school, which I did."

It was while in the Army, in Hawaii, that Vaughn tried his hand at boxing.

Had he scored any knockouts?

"Yeah, my very first fight, well, my very first three fights, I knocked out my opponent," he replied. "The first fight, it was in the first round, and I think the other two were in the third round, the last round."

The 6-foot-5, 295-pound Booker said he competed in the super-heavyweight class — "anything over 250 (pounds)."

His record?

"It was 3-and-0. I only had those three fights because in Hawaii there was nobody else in my weight class. There were only three of us and we just rotated fighting each other."

And, more recently, his stint as a talk-show host?

"I had a radio show at a country-western bar," Vaughn reported. "I had the number one-rated sports talk show in Kansas City."

Might he be hoping to reprise that experience in Green Bay?

"I would like to do that, but I would just like to get established first," Booker said. "I want people to get to know exactly who Vaughn Booker is before they start coming to my radio show."



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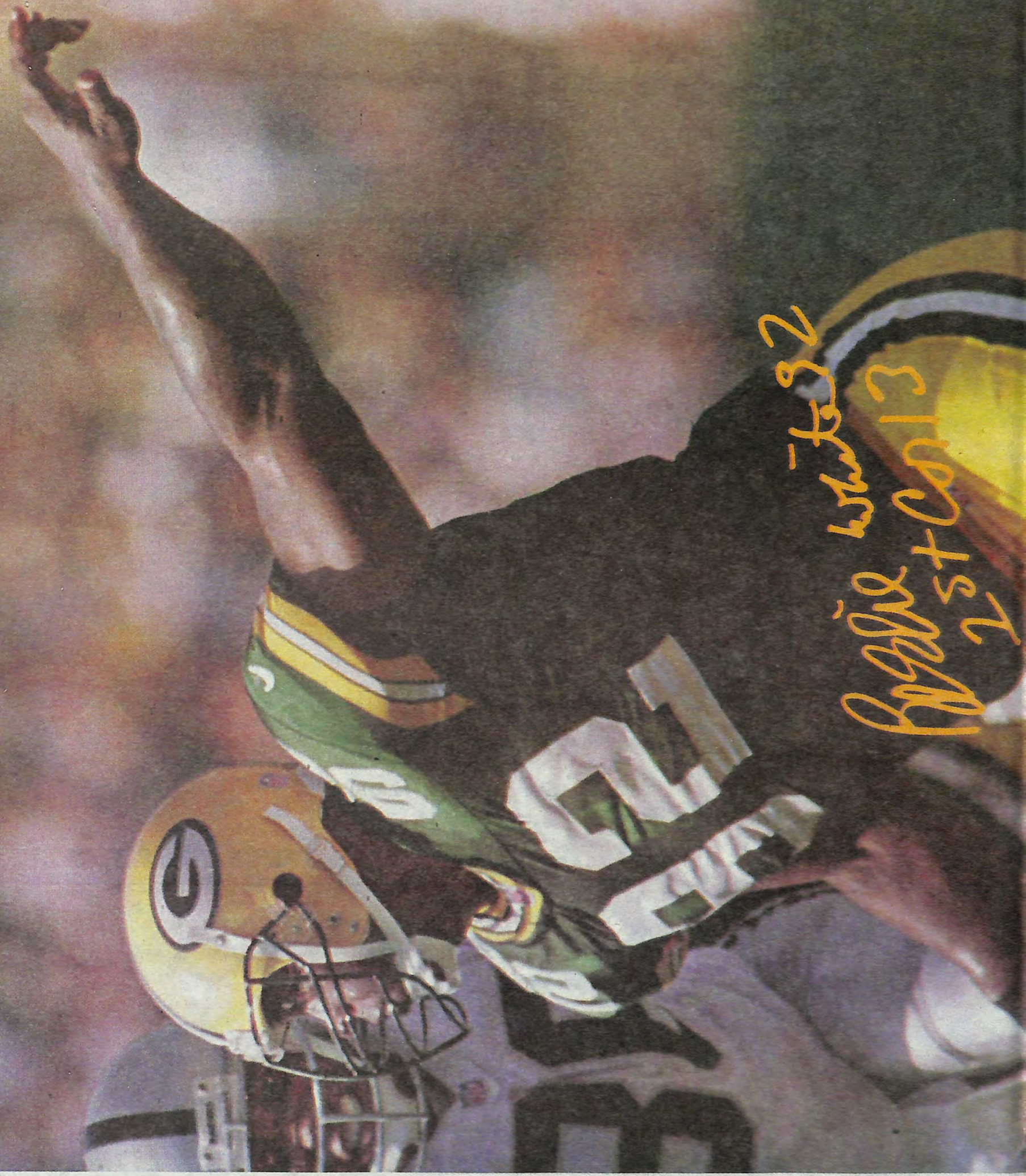
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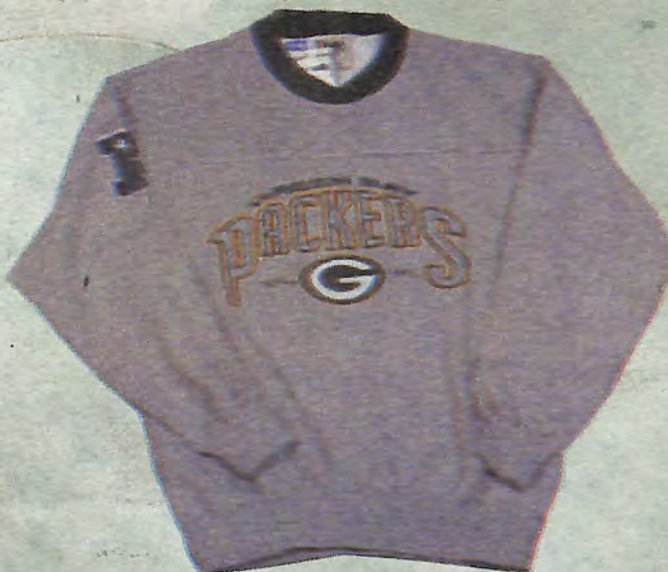
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Legends grace all-time greatest Packer cards

As if you don't already, take a couple of minutes when you get some down time to ponder the perpetual greatness that dots the all-time roster of the Green Bay Packers.

Any lesson on any era of professional football – with the possible exception of those forgettable Lynn Dickey years – is rendered grossly inadequate without the mention of past and present Packers. From Bart Starr and his one-yard skate in the Ice Bowl to Brett Favre and his fearless gun-slinging improvisation, Lambeau's most legendary employees have left an indelible impression on the face of the NFL – and the NFL trading cards most of us have always used to become acquainted with our football heroes.

Of course, the national acclaim draped on the quarterback position in the NFL allows the mind easier access to Starr and Favre, but there are countless others, such as Paul Hornung, Vince Lombardi, Don Hutson ... just some of the legends who grace the 10 greatest Packers cards of all time.

1. 1957 Topps Bart Starr #119 (Current value: \$450)

In part because of who's on it, and in

Tracy Hackler



Collectors' Corner

part because of the set it comes from, this card is more than just the greatest Packers card in history, it's one of the greatest football cards in history regardless of team.

Certainly, the set itself is one of the two or three best ever for it includes Rookie Cards of Starr, Paul Hornung and Johnny Unitas. Such a threesome has pushed this set's total value to about \$2,200.

2. 1957 Topps Paul Hornung #151 (Current value: \$400)

It's likely that no other Hall of Famer can boast a more productively versatile resume as Hornung, whose football card

career may forever be overshadowed thanks to the dumb luck of having to share a set with legendary quarterbacks Starr and Unitas.

3. 1955 Topps All-American Don Hutson #97 (Current value: \$225)

Hutson's Rookie Card hails from another truly landmark set. And although '55 Topps All-American also features cards of NFL forefathers such as Otto Graham, Knute Rockne, Sammy Baugh, Red Grange, Jim Thorpe and Sid Luckman, Hutson's Rookie Card ranks favorably with the best this set has to offer. Of course, it doesn't hurt that Hutson's credited with creating pass patterns for goodness sakes.

4. 1964 Philadelphia Green Bay Packers Play Card #84 (Current value: \$30)

Here's proof that value doesn't always have to be a factor when it comes to the collectibles industry. This card may not look like much on the surface. After all, it's not a Rookie Card and it's not from a legendary set. In fact, technically speaking, it's not even a player card. It's a card that features a diagram of Green Bay's favorite play, right next to a little photo of the greatest coach in NFL history – Vince Lombardi.

5. 1963 Topps Ray Nitschke #96 (Current value: \$90)

Stop us if you've heard the one about a Packers Hall of Famer with a great Rookie Card. Only Bob Lilly has a more valuable Rookie Card in 1963 Topps, and that's largely because Lilly's was short-printed, which made it just a tad tougher to find than Nitschke's.

6. 1992 Stadium Club Brett Favre #683 (Current value: \$100)

One of the most oft-asked questions from Beckett Football Card Monthly readers revolves around this card, as in why is Brett Favre's second-year card worth more than his Rookie. It certainly seems to defy traditional trading-card logic. The answer is pretty simple, though. This card was featured in the rarer third series of '92 Stadium Club, making it tougher to find, and consequently more pricey, than the next card on this list.

7. 1991 Stadium Club Brett Favre #94 (Current value: \$70)

Brett's most coveted Rookie Card, even if Topps committed a minor-yet-very-common-at-the-time spelling faux pas with "Farve." Hey, at least it sounded



Bart Starr's rookie card is valued at \$450.

Clarification

Editor's Note: Reggie White stated in Tracy Hackler's column in the Sept. 26 issue of *Packer Report* that he has agreed to sign merchandise only through Ball Four Cards in Milwaukee, Wis. In addition to White's agreement with Ball Four, the company also monitors White's signings outside of Ball Four.

America's Pack (dba as America's Fans, Inc.), which sells White's autographed merchandise through the Locker Room in *Packer Report*, agreed to a signing with White in November of 1997. All merchandise sold through the Locker Room is backed with a certificate of authenticity with a photo of White signing items.

good, phonetically speaking.

8. 1962 Topps Packers Team Card #75 (Current value: \$35)

What's not to love here? More than being from one of the most attractive vintage sets ever made, it's a short-printed team picture card of the 1962 Packers, a team en route to dynasty status.

9. 1959 Topps Jim Taylor #155 (Current value: \$18)

So, this is the kind of respect one of the greatest running backs in franchise history gets, huh? Not only is Taylor's Rookie Card a tad undervalued at less than \$20, the photo on his card isn't even him. It's Jim Taylor, the Cardinals' linebacker.

10. 1989 Score Supplemental Sterling Sharpe #333S (Current value: \$3)

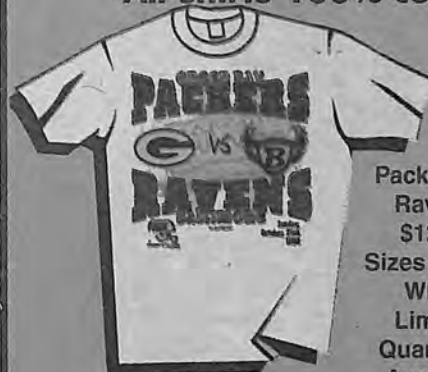
Picking #10 was a toughie, considering that in addition to Sharpe, we could've just as easily selected Rookie Cards of Herb Adderley (1964 Philadelphia #71; \$35) or Forrest Gregg (1960 Topps #56; \$25). But with budget in mind, and the need to have more than just one current Packer, we chose Sharpe's "most expensive" RC.

Note: All values taken from Beckett Football Card Monthly (October 1998).

Tracy Hackler is the associate editor of *Beckett Football Card Monthly*.

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Gotta get those 'go for its'

Okay, all you Packer hot shots, answer this: What are the three worst sins in football?

You know two of them — fumbles and interceptions, also known as “damned turnovers.” The third sin, in my ancient mind, would be fourth downs.

A fourth down, like a fumble or interception, means you turn the ball over to the opposition except when you use it to kick a field goal or, as they say, “go for it.”

The 1997 Packers came up with 120 fourth down plays in their 16-game schedule — 75 for punts, 30 for field goals and five “go for its.” Remove the 30 field goals and five “go for its,” you could say the Packers committed about 80 turnovers and/or sins. Well, just the venial variety!

There's no such thing as a fourth down record of any kind. I perused the thick NFL record book and never saw the two naughty words, fourth down, except in the state of each team.

However, your 1997 Packers set some kind of record for fourth down conversions. They tried five and made all five for a slick 100 percent. I venture to say that's never been done before. By comparison, the Super Bowl champion Denver Broncos tried to convert 16 fourth downs and made only seven for 43.8 percent. No other team had better than 60 percent.

And now it's 1998 and already the Packers are 0-3 in fourth down tries, but nobody's crying since their 4-0 record going into the Minnesota showdown is really what counts. This fourth down stuff is merely an oddball sidelight.

One of the “misses” was in the 13-6 victory at Cincinnati and the next two came along the way in the Pack's exciting 37-30 victory at Carolina.

The FD blunder against the Bengals could have been costly since it happened with 1:58 left in the game on the Bengals' 33-yard line. Actually, the Packers had fourth and three when Brett Favre went back for a quickie pass but rookie first round draft choice Takeo Spikes came up the middle like a shot and nailed our QB for a 12-yard loss.



Art Daley

Featured columnist

Thankfully, the defense stopped the Bengals cold to preserve the win. Coach Mike Holmgren said later he had three choices on that try — a 51-yard field goal, a punt or a pass. He decided on a short shot to Mark Chmura but with one back to protect Favre the Bengals called a zone blitz and Spikes came in virtually free.

At Carolina, the fourth down misses came early and never threatened the game's outcome, although the second botch was followed by a field goal that gave the Panthers a 20-13 lead in the second quarter. Raymont Harris hit right guard for no gain in the first FD and in the first quarter and left end in the second try in the second frame.

In the first four games, the Packers encountered 27 fourth downs, producing 17 punts, 7 field goals and the three unsuccessful attempts.

Somehow I get the feeling that these 1998 Packers are an exciting bunch, what with two hair raisers on the road.

Those fourth down figures for the 1997 season are really amazing when you consider that Holmgren only saw fit to “go for it” five times. Mike's previous tries: 1992, 5 successful in 11 attempts; 1993, 9 of 16; 1994, 6 of 14; 1995, 5 of 8; and 1996, 5 of 11. For his first six seasons Holmgren's men converted on 35 of 65

fourth downs for a robust 55 percent.

Most tries for fourth down are for “inches” or about a yard, but the first attempt in '97 was a rare “fourth and 16.” The Packers were behind the Eagles in Philadelphia 10-9, 1:38 left in the game, when Favre was sacked for a six-yard loss on third down to the Packer 41.

There was no other choice than to “go for it.” Favre then completed a 28-yard pass to glue-fingered Derrick Mayes to the Eagle 31. Yes, the Packers were on their way to a victory but, alas, Ryan Longwell was wide right on a 28-yard field goal with 15 seconds left.

A week earlier in Lambeau Field, the Packers were behind the sticky Miami Dolphins 12-10 in the third quarter when a fourth and one situation came up on the Miami 19. This time Favre took it himself over left guard and gained two yards, but the Packers had to settle for a field goal and a 13-12 lead.

Ten more games followed before a “go for it” deal came up and this time there were two in Game 13 at Minnesota. Early in the third quarter the Pack needed a yard on fourth down on the Viking 38 and Dorsey Levens obliged with a nine-yard gain. In the fourth quarter, fourth and a yard came up on the Viking 31 and this time Favre threw a nine-yard pass to

Chmura. That led to Holmgren's first win at Minnesota, 27-11.

The fifth straight perfecto took places in Game 16 vs. the Buffalo Bills at Lambeau. This time William Henderson did the honors, three yards to the Bills' 8.

There were two fourth down shots in the playoffs. Against Tampa Bay in the third quarter on the Bucs' 39, Levens wheeled 14 yards to the 25 but, horrors, on the next play Donnie Abraham intercepted Favre. In the Super Bowl, the Pack tried to “go for it” in the third quarter but Alfred Williams jumped offside, giving the Pack a first down and leading to a field goal and a 17-all score.

A fourth down really doesn't seem sinful because it's just part of the game and, of course, the reason every team must have a good punter and field kicker. But who wants to part with the ball?

The real sins are putting the ball on the ground, known as a fumble, and having the player wearing the “wrong” uniform catching the pass, known as an interception.

The Packers kept it even last year. There were 16 lost fumbles (out of 24 fumbles) and 16 interceptions (out of 513 pass attempts). And they're even this season in the first four games — 4 fumbles lost, 4 interceptions.

VETERAN COVERAGE

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PACKERS/LIONS FACTS

Date – Oct. 15, 1998
Time – 7:20 p.m., CDT
Site – Pontiac Silverdome
Seating capacity – 80,311
Television – ESPN with Mike Patrick, Joe Theismann, and Paul Maguire
Radio – Packer Radio Network with Jim Irwin, Max McGee

THE SERIES

For the second consecutive year, the Packers and Lions will square off in a prime-time nationally televised contest extending one of the league's longest continuous rivalries. The Packers will look for their 71st victory against the Lions in the 137th regular season meeting dating back to 1930. There have also been seven ties in the series. In the last five regular season meetings at the Silverdome, the Packers have lost four times. The Packers have won the only two post-season games, in 1994 and 1995.

LAST MEETING

Green Bay 38, Detroit 19
Sept. 6, 1998, at Lambeau Field

The Packers opened the season with a dominating performance over the Lions. Kick returner Roell Preston put a damper on the Lions' comeback chances when he opened the fourth quarter with a 100-yard return for a touchdown to extend the Packers' lead to 31-19. His return answered the Lions' Terry Fair who had just returned a Ryan Longwell kickoff 101 yards for a touchdown to close the third quarter. The Packers later added an 84-yard Brett Favre to Antonio Freeman touchdown pass to close the scoring. The Packer defense came up big, limiting Barry Sanders to 70 yards rushing on 17 carries, scoring on a LeRoy Butler fumble return, and sacking quarterback Scott Mitchell three times.

NFL RANKING

GREEN BAY	(through Week 4)	DETROIT
7	OFFENSE	15
29	rushing	4
3	passing	22
1	DEFENSE	7
1	rushing	2
6	passing	19

THE COACHES

Mike Holmgren

(11-4 overall vs. Lions, 2-0 in post-season)

Holmgren, 50, led the Packers to their second straight Super Bowl last season after winning the NFL title in 1996. The Packers' 35-21 triumph over the New England Patriots in Super Bowl XXXI was the team's first Super Bowl Championship in 29 years. Entering the 1998 season, Holmgren has guided the Packers to six consecutive winning seasons, three straight NFC Central Division championships, and back-to-back 13-3 seasons. His overall record stood at 73-36 entering 1998, including a 9-4 mark in the post-season.



Holmgren

Bobby Ross

(1-4 overall vs. the Packers, 1-2 as Lions' coach)

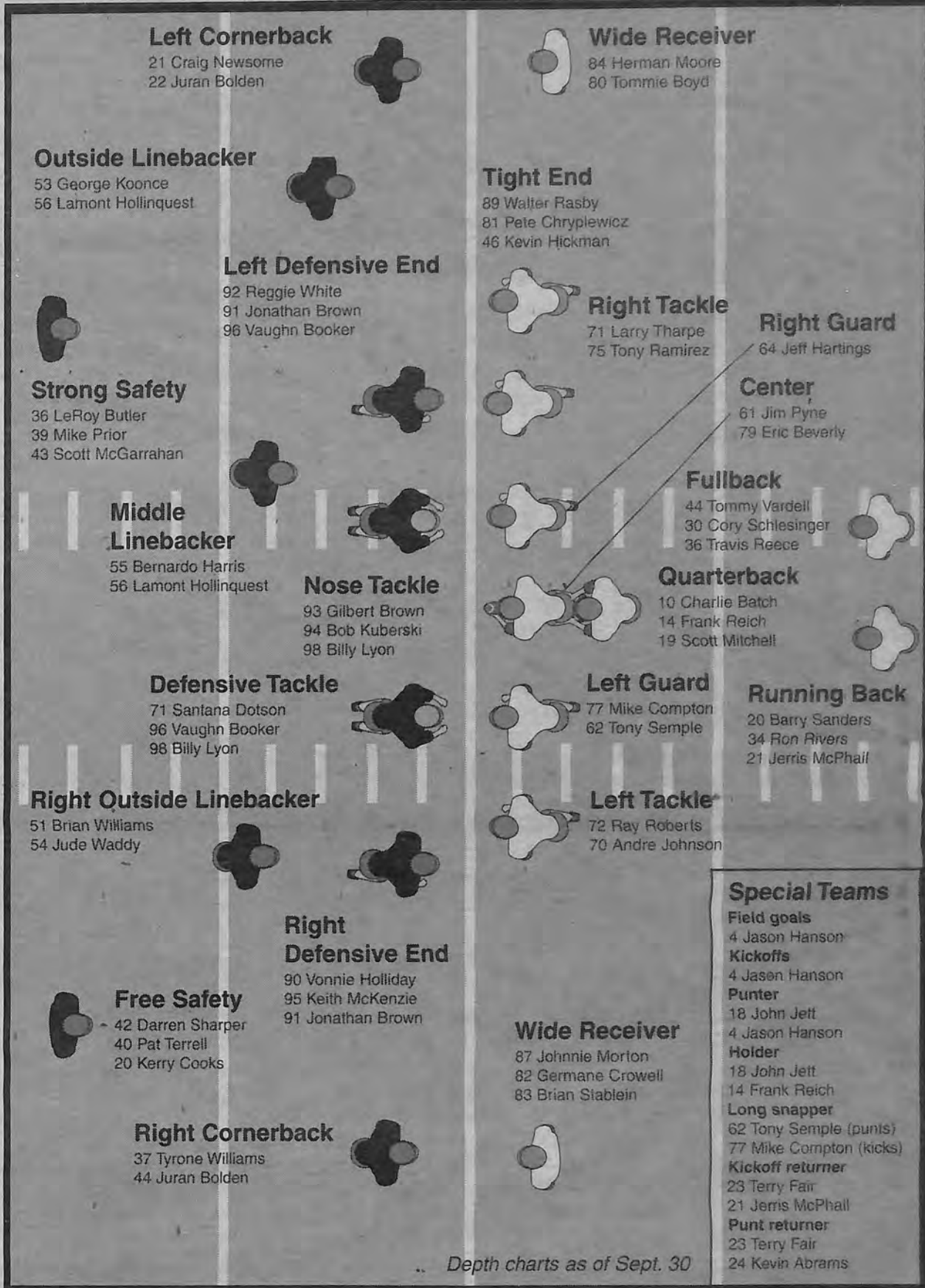
Ross, 61, is coaching in his second year with the Lions, after posting a 9-7 record and a playoff berth a year ago. The disciplined Ross entered this season with a 59-44 overall record through six seasons as an NFL head coach. He also has a 3-4 mark in the post-season including a Super Bowl XXIX appearance with the San Diego Chargers in 1995. His previous NFL coaching experience outside of head coaching was as an assistant with the Kansas City Chiefs (1978-81). He has also been a head coach in the collegiate ranks with The Citadel, Maryland, and Georgia Tech.



Ross



Lions' ball



Lions' offensive stars



Charlie Batch

- ☆ Took over as starting QB in Week 3
- ☆ 2nd round pick of Lions in '98 Draft
- ☆ Owns several passing records at EMU



Barry Sanders

- ☆ 455 rushing yards through 4 games
- ☆ At least 1,115 yards rushing in 9 straight seasons
- ☆ '97 NFL co-MVP



Herman Moore

- ☆ 32 catches through 4 games led team
- ☆ Had 9 catches, 100 yards vs. GB 9/6/98
- ☆ 3 consecutive seasons with at least 100 catches



Johnnie Morton

- ☆ 22 catches through 4 games
- ☆ Had 9 catches, 96 yards vs. GB 9/6/98
- ☆ Has increased catch total in each of 4 seasons



Packers' ball



Flanker

87 Robert Brooks
80 Derrick Mayes
88 Roell Preston



Tight End

89 Mark Chmura
83 Jeff Thomason
81 Tyrone Davis



Running Back

29 Raymont Harris
32 Travis Jervey
44 Darick Holmes

Left Tackle

78 Ross Verba
76 Matt Willig



Left Guard

62 Marco Rivera
70 Joe Andruzzi



Quarterback

4 Brett Favre
18 Doug Pederson
12 Rick Mirer



Center

52 Frank Winters
67 Jeff Dellenbach
58 Mike Flanagan



Fullback

30 William Henderson
44 Darick Holmes

Special Teams

Field goals

8 Ryan Longwell

Kickoffs

8 Ryan Longwell

Punter

7 Sean Landeta

Holder

18 Doug Pederson

39 Mike Prior

Long snappers

60 Rob Davis (punts)

60 Rob Davis (kicks)

Kickoff returner

88 Roell Preston

32 Travis Jervey

23 Roosevelt Blackmon

84 Bill Schroeder

Punt returner

88 Roell Preston

80 Derrick Mayes

39 Mike Prior

Right Cornerback

24 Kevin Abrams
23 Terry Fair
39 Lamar Campbell



Strongside Linebacker

53 Rob Fredrickson
56 George Jamison



Right Defensive End

93 Kerwin Waldroup
97 Tracy Scroggins



Strong Safety

28 Ron Rice
42 Ryan Stewart



Defensive Tackle

94 Luther Elliss



Middle Linebacker

57 Stephen Boyd
99 Richard Jordan
59 Kevin O'Neill



Defensive Tackle

90 Dan Owens
92 Marc Spindler



Left Defensive End

91 Robert Porcher
98 Marvin Thomas



Free Safety

27 Mark Carrier
25 Greg Jeffries



Weakside Linebacker

55 Allen Aldridge
52 Scott Kowalkowski



Left Cornerback

32 Bryant Westbrook
35 Robert Bailey



Right Guard

63 Adam Timmerman
67 Jeff Dellenbach
68 Mike Wahle



Right Tackle

72 Earl Dotson
76 Matt Willig
67 Jeff Dellenbach



Wide Receiver

86 Antonio Freeman
84 Bill Schroeder
85 Corey Bradford



Lions' defensive stars



Robert Porcher

☆ Career-high 12.5 sacks last season
☆ Fifth on Lions' all-time sack list
☆ Voted to Pro Bowl for first time in '97



Luther Elliss

☆ 8.5 sacks a year ago were a career-high
☆ Was Lions' 1st round pick in '95
☆ Has started every game played in NFL



Stephen Boyd

☆ 192 tackles in '97 were second highest in team history
☆ 11 tackles vs. GB 9/6/98
☆ '95 fifth round pick



Mark Carrier

☆ Led Lions with 5 Int's last season
☆ 25 career Int's entering '98
☆ Only player in '90s to have 10 Int's in a year

Batch gives Lions new identity

By Matt Tevsh

Bobby Ross is indeed a man of his word.

The second-year head coach of the Lions made it clear coming into the 1998 season that if his quarterback, Scott Mitchell, did not show signs of marked consistency, leadership, and mistake-free play, there would be a change. That change took place after a Week 2 loss to the Cincinnati Bengals at the Silverdome. Ross benched Mitchell in favor of rookie second-round draft pick Charlie Batch, who was named the team's regular starter on Sept. 16.

Two late Mitchell interceptions led to a deflating loss to Cincinnati, 34-28, in overtime. His final interception, in overtime, was returned 53 yards for a game-winning touchdown by Corey Sawyer. Thus, the Lions are giving Batch, an Eastern Michigan product taken 60th overall, a chance at quarterback. He is scheduled to start his fourth game of the season on Oct. 15 when the Packers visit the Silverdome to take on the Lions for the second time this season.

Batch has given the Lions a different identity at quarterback. He is an athletic quarterback who likes to run, unlike Mitchell, who is more of a pocket passer. He carried the ball 16 times for 102 yards and a touchdown in his first two starts. Furthermore, he appears to have provided a breath of fresh air to a team in need of a different direction.

"I'm just going out there and trying not to do anything that will hurt the offense," said Batch following a 27-6 victory over the Buccaneers in Week 4 on *Monday Night Football*. "They (opposing defenses) can't do too much to rattle me. A big difference is that I have Barry Sanders behind me. They can't do too much to stop him because if they blitz and Barry breaks it, he's gone. I believe in myself and when I go out in the huddle, I just want my teammates to believe that I'll get the job done."

Like all young quarterbacks adjusting to the NFL, Batch is sure to go through some growing pains. He admits that he has made a few mistakes and his passer rating through two starts was only 52.0. But more impressive, however, was the leadership and poise he showed when he guided the Lions to their first win of the season against the Buccaneers.

"I thought Charlie Batch did a heck of a job," said Ross following the Sept. 28 victory. "His creativeness helps us. I thought he performed very well. He made a couple of checks that were significant for us, and he sustained drives for us. I'm pleased with him."

Batch has appeared to adjust comfortably as a rookie out of a lesser-known college due in large part to the presence of Sanders. As he mentioned above, he knows that he does not have to do everything himself. He has arguably the game's greatest running back to rely on in times of trouble. To nobody's surprise, Sanders has been a bright spot in a poor start to the season by the Lions. He was second in the NFL in rushing with 455 yards through four games following his magical 2,053-yard season last year. At the pace he set through Week 4, he would finish the season with 1,820 yards rushing. That number would equate to the third highest total in his 10-year career.

While Batch gives the Lions a new look on offense, defensive coordinator Larry Peccatiello's defense has been using the same old faces to put Batch in good positions. The unit ranked seventh in the NFL through Week 4 in yardage allowed (286.5 per game). They have improved their run-defense behind middle linebacker Stephen Boyd, their leading tackler, to second in the league (76.5 yards per game), up from 18th a year ago. In the season opener against the Packers, they held Dorsey Levens to 59 yards on 29 carries.

Thursday night's prime time kickoff against the Packers will be Batch's most difficult test yet. He will need to come up with the right ingredients to help the Lions overcome a Packer defense which has been a juggernaut so far this season.

PACKERS-LIONS ROSTERS ON PAGE 26



Packers roster

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	Exp.	College
4	Brett Favre	QB	6-2	230	29	8	Southern Mississippi
7	Sean Landeta	P	6-0	200	36	14	Towson State
8	Ryan Longwell	K	6-0	192	24	2	California
12	Rick Mirer	QB	6-3	215	28	6	Notre Dame
18	Doug Pederson	QB	6-3	216	30	6	Northeast Louisiana
20	Kerry Cooks	CB	5-11	202	24	R	Iowa
21	Craig Newsome	CB	6-0	190	27	4	Arizona State
22	Darick Holmes	RB	6-0	226	27	4	Portland State
25	Dorsey Levens	RB	6-1	228	28	5	Georgia Tech
29	Raymont Harris	RB	6-0	230	27	5	Ohio State
32	Travis Jervey	RB	6-0	222	25	4	The Citadel
33	William Henderson	FB	6-2	245	27	4	North Carolina
36	LeRoy Butler	S	6-0	198	30	8	Florida State
37	Tyrone Williams	CB	5-11	192	25	3	Nebraska
39	Mike Prior	S	6-0	208	34	13	Illinois State
40	Pat Terrell	S	6-1	208	30	9	Notre Dame
42	Darren Sharper	CB	6-2	210	22	2	William & Mary
43	Scott McGarrahan	S	6-1	197	24	R	New Mexico
44	Juran Bolden	CB	6-2	201	24	3	Mississippi Delta
51	Brian Williams	LB	6-1	245	25	4	Southern California
52	Frank Winters	C	6-3	300	34	12	Western Illinois
53	George Koonce	LB	6-1	245	30	7	East Carolina
54	Jude Waddy	LB	6-2	220	23	R	William & Mary
55	Bernardo Harris	LB	6-2	248	27	4	North Carolina
56	Lamont Hollinquest	LB	6-3	250	27	5	Southern California
58	Mike Flanagan	C	6-5	290	24	3	UCLA
60	Rob Davis	LS	6-3	290	29	3	Shippensburg (Pa.)
62	Marco Rivera	G	6-4	305	26	3	Penn State
63	Adam Timmerman	G	6-4	300	27	4	South Dakota State
67	Jeff Dellenbach	C/G	6-6	300	35	14	Wisconsin
68	Mike Wahle	OT	6-6	306	21	R	Navy
70	Joe Andruzzi	G	6-3	310	23	2	Southern Conn. St.
71	Santana Dotson	DT	6-5	286	28	7	Baylor
72	Earl Dotson	T	6-4	315	27	6	Texas A & I
76	Matt Willig	T	6-7	315	29	6	Southern California
78	Ross Verba	T	6-4	302	24	2	Iowa
80	Derrick Mayes	WR	6-0	205	24	3	Notre Dame
81	Tyrone Davis	TE	6-4	252	26	3	Virginia
83	Jeff Thomason	TE	6-5	255	28	6	Oregon
84	Bill Schroeder	WR	6-3	200	27	3	Wisconsin-LaCrosse
85	Corey Bradford	WR	6-1	197	22	R	Jackson State
86	Antonio Freeman	WR	6-1	198	25	4	Virginia Tech
87	Robert Brooks	WR	6-0	180	28	7	South Carolina
88	Roell Preston	WR/KR	5-10	195	26	3	Mississippi
89	Mark Chmura	TE	6-5	255	29	7	Boston College
90	Vonnie Holliday	DT	6-5	296	22	R	North Carolina
91	Jonathan Brown	DE	6-4	265	22	R	Tennessee
92	Reggie White	DE	6-5	300	36	14	Tennessee
93	Gilbert Brown	DT	6-2	350	27	6	Kansas
94	Bob Kuberski	DT	6-4	298	27	4	Navy
95	Keith McKenzie	DE	6-3	264	25	3	Ball State
96	Vaughn Booker	DE/DT	6-5	300	30	5	Cincinnati
98	Billy Lyon	DT	6-5	295	24	1	Marshall

PRACTICE SQUAD

11	Matt Hasselbeck	QB	6-4	217	23	R	Boston College
30	Pepe Pearson	RB	5-10	208	22	R	Ohio State
49	Tawambi Settles	S	6-2	191	22	R	Duke
50	Jim Nelson	LB	6-1	235	23	R	Penn State
82	Brian Manning	WR	5-11	188	23	2	Stanford

INJURED RESERVE (out for season)

N/A	Anthony Hicks	LB	6-1	243	24	2	Arkansas
28	Roderick Mullen	CB/S	6-1	202	25	4	Grambling
35	Edwin Watson	FB	6-0	225	22	R	Purdue
47	Kyle Wachholtz	TE	6-4	248	26	1	Southern California
57	Antonio London	LB	6-2	238	27	6	Alabama
77	John Michels	T	6-7	300	25	3	Southern California

RESERVE/NON-FOOTBALL INJURY

99	Jermaine Smith	DT	6-3	289	26	2	Georgia
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Head Coach: Mike Holmgren (seventh season)

Assistant Coaches: Sherman Lewis, offensive coordinator; Fritz Shurmur, defensive coordinator; Larry Brooks, defensive line; Nolan Cromwell; wide receivers; Johnny Hollandt, special teams; Ken Flajole, defensive assistant/quality control; Kent Johnston, strength and conditioning; Jim Lind, linebackers; Tom Lovat, offensive line; Andy Reid, quarterbacks; Mike Sherman, tight ends/assistant offensive line; Harry Sydney, running backs; Bob Valesente, defensive backs.

Rosters as of Oct. 1, 1998



Lions roster

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	Exp.	College
4	Jason Hanson	K	5-11	183	28	7	Washington St.
10	Charlie Batch	QB	6-2	216	23	R	Eastern Michigan
14	Frank Reich	QB	6-4	210	36	14	Maryland
18	John Jett	P	6-0	199	29	6	East Carolina
19	Scott Mitchell	QB	6-6	230	30	9	Utah
20	Barry Sanders	RB	5-8	200	30	10	Oklahoma St.
21	Jerris McPhail	RB	5-11	198	26	3	East Carolina
23	Terry Fair	CB	5-9	185	22	R	Tennessee
24	Kevin Abrams	CB	5-8	175	24	2	Syracuse
25	Greg Jeffries	CB	5-9	184	27	6	Virginia
26	Brock Olivo	FB	6-0	228	22	R	Missouri
27	Mark Carrier	S	6-1	192	30	9	USC
28	Ron Rice	S	6-1	206	25	4	Eastern Michigan
30	Cory Schlesinger	RB	6-0	230	26	4	Nebraska
32	Bryant Westbrook	CB	6-0	199	23	2	Texas
34	Ron Rivers	RB	5-8	205	26	4	Fresno St.
35	Robert Bailey	CB	5-9	174	30	8	Miami (FL)
36	Travis Reece	FB	6-3	252	23	R	Michigan St.
39	Lamar Campbell	S	5-11	182	21	R	Wisconsin
42	Ryan Stewart	S	6-1	207	25	3	Georgia Tech
44	Tommy Vardell	FB	6-2	230	29	7	Stanford
46	Kevin Hickman	TE	6-4	258	27	4	Navy
52	Scott Kowalkowski	LB	6-2	228	30	8	Notre Dame
53	Rob Fredrickson	LB	6-4	240	27	5	Michigan St.
55	Allen Aldridge	LB	6-1	255	26	5	Houston
57	Stephen Boyd	LB	6-0	247	26	4	Boston College
58	George Jamison	LB	6-1	235	36	13	Cincinnati
59	Kevin O'Neill	LB	6-2	239	23	R	Bowling Green
61	Jim Pyne	C	6-2	297	26	5	Virginia Tech
62	Tony Semple	G	6-4	286	27	5	Memphis
64	Jeff Hartings	G	6-3	283	26	3	Penn St.
70	Andre Johnson	T	6-5	314	25	3	Penn St.
71	Larry Tharpe	T	6-4	300	27	7	Tennessee St.
72	Ray Roberts	T	6-6	308	29	7	Virginia
75	Tony Ramirez	T	6-6	296	25	2	Northern Colorado
77	Mike Compton	C/G	6-6	297	27	6	West Virginia
79	Eric Beverly	C	6-3	297	24	1	Miami (OH)
80	Tommie Boyd	WR	6-0	195	26	2	Toledo
81	Pete Chryplewicz	TE	6-5	253	24	2	Notre Dame
82	Germane Crowell	WR	6-3	213	21	R	Virginia
83	Brian Stablein	WR	6-1	193	28	5	Ohio St.
84	Herman Moore	WR	6-4	210	28	8	Virginia
87	Johnnie Morton	WR	6-0	190	26	5	USC
89	Walter Rasby	TE	6-3	247	25	5	Wake Forest
90	Dan Owens	DT	6-3	290	31	9	USC
91	Robert Porcher	DE	6-3	270	29	7	South Carolina St.
92	Marc Spindler	DT	6-5	290	28	9	Pittsburgh
93	Kerwin Waldroup	DL	6-3	260	24	3	Central St. (Ohio)
94	Luther Elliss	DT	6-5	300	25	4	Utah
95	Mike Chalenski	DE	6-5	280	28	6	UCLA
97	Tracy Scroggins	DE	6-2	255	28	7	Tulsa
98	Marvin Thomas	DE	6-5	264	24	1	Memphis
99	Richard Jordan	LB	6-1	245	23	2	Missouri Southern

PRACTICE SQUAD

15	Corey Thomas	WR	6-0	174	22	R	Duke
17	Andy McCullough	WR	6-3	210	22	R	Tennessee
29	Kywin Supernam	S	6-1	206	22	R	Indiana
65	Kerlin Blaise	G	6-6	306	23	R	Miami (Fla.)
96	Henry Taylor	DT	6-2	295	22	R	South Carolina

INJURED RESERVE (out for season)

54	Matt Russell	LB	6-2	245	25	2	Colorado
66	Hessley Hempstead	C	6-1	295	26	4	Kansas
67	Travis Kirschke	DT	6-3	286	24	2	UCLA
69	Jerome Davis	DT	6-4	275	24	1	Minnesota
73	Juan Roque	T	6-8	333	24	2	Arizona St.
82	Eric Stocz	TE	6-4	258	24	3	Westminster (OH)

PHYSICALLY UNABLE TO PERFORM

86	David Sloan	TE	6-6	254	26	4	New Mexico
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Head Coach: Bobby Ross (2nd year)

Assistant Coaches: Sylvester Croom, offensive coordinator; Larry Peccatiello, defensive coordinator; Brian Baker, defensive line; Don Clemons, defensive assistant and assistant strength coach; Frank Falks, running backs; Jack Henry, offensive line; Bert Hill, strength and conditioning; Stan Kwan, offense and special teams assistant; John Misciagna, quality control and offense and administrative assistant; Gary Moeller, linebackers; Dennis Murphy, quality control and defense; Bob Palcic, tight ends; Chuck Priefer, special teams; Richard Seicer, secondary; Jerry Sullivan, receivers; Jim Zorn, quarterbacks.



KEYS FOR THE PACK

1 Contain Sanders: The best defense against Barry Sanders may be to keep him off the field and limit his touches. That means the Packer offense can help out the defense Thursday night by sustaining long, time-consuming drives. Sanders' streak of 14 straight 100-yard rushing games was snapped by the Packers in the season opener when he gained 70 yards on 17 carries with a long run of 18 yards. More importantly, the Packers jumped out to an early lead, forcing Scott Mitchell to throw (44 attempts) to catch up. That helped negate Sanders, and the Packers won the time of possession battle, 33:58 to 26:02. The Packers have consistently stopped the run this season with 90 yards being the highest single game rushing total that they have allowed through the first four games.

2 Win turnover battle: Crazy things happen at the Silverdome when the Packers come to town. Even through six straight winning seasons, the Packers have lost four of the last five regular season meetings at Detroit. One of the main reasons for those dismal performances is turnovers. In the Packers' last four losses at the Silverdome, they have turned the ball over a staggering 15 times compared to Detroit's one. In their only win in the last five tries, a 31-3 trouncing in 1996, the Packers were even in the turnover department at one apiece. The Lions have used turnovers as momentum builders against the Packers and have carried them to victory. If the Packers are to snap the Silverdome jinx, they will likely have to win the turnover battle.

3 Baffle Batch: Rookie Charlie Batch has pleased coach Bobby Ross with his play at quarterback since taking over for Mitchell. Like most young quarterbacks, however, Batch is prone to mistakes and is learning on the job. The Packer defense will present him with his toughest challenge yet, and it is a good bet that defensive coordinator Fritz Shurmur will throw the book at the him. Batch has provided the Lions with leadership, but his numbers have been average thus far. The Packer defense is one of the stingiest in the league when it comes to completion percentage, so Batch will have his work cut out to complete at least half of his passes. With Shurmur's use of a rotating defensive line and various blitzes, it could be a long night for Batch.

4 Key on Moore, Morton: When the Lions throw the ball, there is little doubt who is at the receiving end - either Herman Moore or Johnnie Morton. Through four games, the duo has caught 74% of the team's completions (54 of 73). Both receivers had a big day earlier this season at Lambeau Field, each catching nine passes. To the Packers credit, however, Moore and Morton were held to minimal gains for most of the game. Moore only got behind the secondary on one play, a 25-yard touchdown pass from Mitchell. If Craig Newsome and Tyrone Williams are effective in coverage, the Lions will need someone to step up as a pass receiver. Batch may have a tendency to lock in on Moore and Morton when he drops back to pass, so the Packers may have the chance for big plays.

5 Prepare for Fair: Rookie Terry Fair made Lambeau Field his own personal field of dreams in this season's opener. In his first ever NFL game, he torched the Packers for 267 total yards in returns including a 101-yard kick-off return for a touchdown. It was an unpleasant beginning for new special teams coach Johnny Holland, but the Packers have made changes in their special teams coverage recently and will be prepared for Fair who had two kick-off return touchdowns through four games. A healthy Travis Jervy will certainly help the Packers' cause in stopping Fair as well as some booming kicks by Ryan Longwell and "hang-time" punts from Sean Landeta.

- by Matt Tevsh

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Packers '98 schedule

Preseason Schedule

Date	Opponent	Time	TV
Saturday, Aug. 1	Packers 27, Kansas City Chiefs 24 (OT) (American Bowl)		
Saturday, Aug. 8	Packers 31, New Orleans Saints 7 (Bishop's Charities Game)		
Sunday, Aug. 16	Oakland Raiders 27, Packers 21 (Midwest Shrine Game)		
Monday, Aug. 24	at Denver Broncos 34, Packers 31		
Friday, Aug. 28	Dolphins 21, Packers 7		

Regular Season Schedule

Date	Opponent	Time	TV
Sunday, Sept. 6	Packers 38, Detroit Lions 19		
Sunday, Sept. 13	Packers 23, Tampa Bay Buccaneers 15 (Gold Pkg.)		
Sunday, Sept. 20	Packers 13, at Cincinnati Bengals 6		
Sunday, Sept. 27	Packers 37, at Carolina Panthers 30		
Monday, Oct. 5	Minnesota Vikings		
Sunday, Oct. 11	Open date		
Thursday, Oct. 15	at Detroit Lions	7:20 p.m.	ESPN
Sunday, Oct. 25	Baltimore Ravens	12:01 p.m.	CBS
Sunday, Nov. 1	San Francisco 49ers (Gold Pkg.)	3:15 p.m.	FOX
Monday, Nov. 9	at Pittsburgh Steelers	7:20 p.m.	ABC
Sunday, Nov. 15	at New York Giants	3:15 p.m.	FOX
Sunday, Nov. 22	at Minnesota Vikings	12:01 p.m.	FOX
Sunday, Nov. 29	Philadelphia Eagles	3:15 p.m.	FOX
Monday, Dec. 7	at Tampa Bay Buccaneers	7:20 p.m.	ABC
Sunday, Dec. 13	Chicago Bears	12:01 p.m.	FOX
Sunday, Dec. 20	Tennessee Oilers	12:01 p.m.	CBS
Sunday, Dec. 27	at Chicago Bears	12:01 p.m.	FOX

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Packer stats



DEFENSIVE STATISTICS (unofficial through 4 games)										Fumbles Recovered	Forced Fumbles	Passes Defensed
Player	Pos.	Total Tackles	Solo	Assists	Sacks/Yards	Int./Yards						
B. Williams	LB	28	22	6	0.0/0.0	0/0				0	1	2
Newsome	CB	21	20	1	0.0/0.0	1/26				0	0	4
Butler	S	19	16	3	0.0/0.0	0/0				1	0	3
B. Harris	LB	19	12	7	0.0/0.0	0/0				0	0	0
Holliday	DE/DT	18	14	4	4.0/20.0	0/0				1	0	3
Koonce	LB	17	14	3	0.0/0.0	0/0				1	0	0
T. Williams	CB	15	15	0	0.0/0.0	1/0				0	0	4
Sharper	S	13	9	4	0.0/0.0	0/0				0	0	3
Prior	S	11	8	3	0.0/0.0	1/0				0	0	2
White	DE	10	8	2	5.5/31.5	0/0				0	2	3
Terrell	S	8	7	1	0.0/0.0	0/0				0	0	0
G. Brown	DT	6	1	5	0.0/0.0	0/0				0	0	0
McKenzie	DE	5	4	1	4.5/34.5	0/0				1	1	0
S. Dotson	DT	3	2	1	1.0/13.0	0/0				0	1	1
London	LB	1	0	1	0.0/0.0	0/0				0	0	0
McGarrahan	S	1	0	1	0.0/0.0	0/0				0	0	0

Touchdowns: Butler 1, 32-yard fumble return vs. Detroit (Sept. 6)

Special Teams Tackles: Schroeder 5 (4-1), Blackmon 5 (3-2), McGarrahan 5 (2-3), Terrell 4 (3-1), Hollinquest 3 (2-1), Prior 2 (2-0), T.Davis 1 (1-0), Jervey 1 (1-0), London 1 (1-0), Longwell 1 (1-0), Blair 1 (0-1), Waddy 1 (0-1)

Miscellaneous Tackles: Chmura 1, Schroeder 1

Passing	Att.	Cmp.	Yds.	Cmp. %	Yds./Att.	TD	TD%	Int.	Int. %	Long	Sack/Lost	Rating
Favre	145	96	1176	66.2	8.11	10	6.9	4	2.8	84t	11/66	102.5
TEAM	145	96	1176	66.2	8.11	10	6.9	4	2.8	84t	11/66	102.5
OPPONENTS	167	81	798	48.5	4.78	4	2.4	3	1.8	41	15/99	62.9

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WON 4, LOST 0

Date	Opponent	Attendance
Sept. 6, W, 38-19	Detroit Lions	60,102
Sept. 13, W, 23-15	Tampa Bay Buccaneers	60,124
Sept. 20, W, 13-6	at Cincinnati Bengals	56,346
Sept. 27, W, 37-30	at Carolina Panthers	69,723
Oct. 5	Minnesota Vikings	
Oct. 15	Detroit Lions	
Oct. 25	Baltimore Ravens	
Nov. 1	San Francisco 49ers	
Nov. 9	at Pittsburgh Steelers	
Nov. 15	at New York Giants	
Nov. 22	at Minnesota Vikings	
Nov. 29	Philadelphia Eagles	
Dec. 7	at Tampa Bay Buccaneers	
Dec. 13	Chicago Bears	
Dec. 20	Tennessee Oilers	
Dec. 27	at Chicago Bears	

	Packers	Opponents
TOTAL FIRST DOWNS.....	84	57
Rushing.....	16	8
Passing.....	61	47
Penalty.....	7	2
3rd Down: Made/Att.....	27/54	23/64
3rd Down Pct.....	50.0	35.9
4th Down: Made/Att.....	0/3	2/6
4th Down Pct.....	0.0	33.3
POSSESSION AVG.....	33:38	26:22
TOTAL NET YARDS.....	1417	922
Avg. Per Game.....	354.3	230.5
Total Plays.....	274	256
Avg. Per Play.....	5.2	3.6
NET YARDS RUSHING.....	307	223
Avg. Per Game.....	76.8	55.8
Total Rushes.....	118	74
NET YARDS PASSING.....	1110	699
Avg. Per Game.....	277.5	174.8
Sacked/Yards Lost.....	11/66	15/99
Gross Yards.....	1176	798
Att./Completions.....	145/96	167/81
Completion Pct.....	66.2	48.5
Had Intercepted.....	4	3

PUNTS/AVERAGE.....	17/45.5	26/45.5
NET PUNTING AVG.....	17/36.9	26/40.7
PENALTIES/YARDS.....	21/163	23/226
FUMBLES/BALL LOST.....	6/5	6/4
TOUCHDOWNS.....	13	7
Rushing.....	1	0
Passing.....	10	4
Returns.....	2	3

SCORE BY PERIODS.	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	OT	PTS.
TEAM.....	33	30	17	31	0	111
OPPONENTS.....	16	16	13	25	0	70

SCORING	TD	RU	PA	Rt	K-PAT	FG	S	PTS.
Longwell.....	0	0	0	0	12/13	7/7	0	33
Freeman.....	3	0	3	0			0	18
Mayes.....	3	0	3	0			0	18
T. Davis.....	2	0	2	0			0	12
Brooks.....	1	0	1	0			0	6
Butler.....	1	0	0	1			0	6
Chmura.....	1	0	1	0			0	6
Levens.....	1	1	0	0			0	6
Preston.....	1	0	0	1			0	6
Team.....	13	1	10	2	12/13	7/7	0	111
Opponents.....	7	0	4	3	5/5	7/7	0	70

2-Pt. Conversions: Team 0-0, Opponents 1-2.

Sacks: White 5.5, McKenzie 4.5, Holliday 4.0, S.Dotson 1.0, TEAM 15.0, OPPONENTS 11.0

RUSHING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LG	TD
R. Harris.....	52	158	3.0	11	0
Levens.....	43	102	2.4	8	1
Henderson.....	11	24	2.2	5	0
Jervey.....	2	8	4.0	5	0
Favre.....	7	7	1.0	17	0
Freeman.....	1	5	5.0	5	0
Blair.....	2	3	1.5	2	0
TEAM.....	118	307	2.6	17	1
Opponents.....	74	223	3.0	31	0

RECEIVING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LG	TD
Freeman.....	20	345	17.3	84t	3

Chmura.....	16	224	14.0	25t	1
Levens.....	15	84	5.6	14	0
Mayes.....	14	180	12.9	33t	3
Brooks.....	11	157	14.3	25	1
Henderson.....	9	66	7.3	13	0
T. Davis.....	3	36	12.0	20t	2
R. Harris.....	3	22	7.3	12	0
Thomason.....	2	35	17.5	22	0
Schroeder.....	2	17	8.5	13	0
Blair.....	1	10	10.0	10	0
TEAM.....	96	1176	12.3	84t	10
Opponents.....	81	798	9.9	41	4

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LG	TD
Newsome.....	1	26	26.0	26	0
Prior.....	1	0	0.0	0	0
T. Williams.....	1	0	0.0	0	0
TEAM.....	3	26	8.7	26	0
Opponents.....	4	32	8.0	16t	1

PUNTING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Net	TB	IN20	LG	Blk
Landeta.....	17	774	45.5	36.9	1	9	72	0
TEAM.....	17	774	45.5	36.9	1	9	72	0
Opponents.....	26	1184	45.5	40.7	2	6	62	0

PUNT RETURNS	Ret.	FC	Yds.	Avg.	Long	TD
Preston.....	13	7	86	6.6	24	0
Prior.....	1	0	0	0.0	0	0
TEAM.....	14	7	86	6.1	24	0
Opponents.....	6	5	127	21.2	95t	1

KICKOFF RETURNS	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Long	TD
Preston.....	12	399	33.3	100t	1
TEAM.....	12	399	33.3	100t	1
Opponents.....	20	566	28.3	101t	1

FIELD GOALS	1-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50+
Longwell.....	0/0	2/2	4/4	1/1	0/0
TEAM.....	0/0	2/2	4/4	1/1	0/0
Opponents.....	1/1	0/0	1/1	4/4	1/0
Longwell: (32G) (38G, 27G, 20G) (30G, 35G) (41G)					
Opponents: (47G, 43G) () (37G, 19G) (42G, 42G, 56G)					

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PACKER REPORT



Tampa Bay Buccaneers

This week: Idle

A jolt: The Tampa Bay Buccaneers received a scare in their Week 4 loss at Detroit when receiver Brice Hunter was injured in a collision.

Hunter, a rookie, fell motionless to the Silverdome artificial turf after taking a helmet-to-helmet hit from Lion safety Mark Carrier.

The Monday night game was delayed 10 minutes while Hunter was put on a backboard and taken off the field by paramedics.

Hunter was taken to POH Medical Center where he underwent a CAT scan. The injury turned out to be minor and Hunter left the hospital in good condition.

Slumber: The Buccaneers could not extend the momentum in Week 4 that they captured in Week 3 after beating the Chicago Bears with a 27-point first half.

The Bucs fell flat in a 27-6 loss to Detroit in their first *Monday Night Football* appearance since 1983.

"It's very disappointing to come in and have so much on the line and not play very well," Bucs' coach Tony Dungy said.

The loss dropped the Bucs to 1-3 with all three losses coming to division foes on the road.

"It's three times in a row that we've been on the road against a division opponent and really have not come close to getting the job done," Dungy said. "Right now, we're not playing good football. I think we could be a good football team but right now, at 1-3, we're not."

Bad night: Quarterback Trent Dilfer pointed the finger at himself for the Bucs' dud in Detroit.

"The quarterback didn't play well tonight," Dilfer said. "It was the first time in a long time that I didn't feel I played well."

Dilfer was 12 of 30 for 120 yards with one interception. It was his first interception of the season and it was returned by Bryant Westbrook for a touchdown.

There's hope: The toughest part of the season may be over for the Bucs.

Tampa opened its season with six consecutive games against 1997 playoff teams. Following the bye, relief is in sight in the form of Carolina (Oct. 18) and New Orleans (Oct. 25).



Detroit Lions

This week: Bye

Batch report: The Detroit Lions saw the best of rookie quarterback Charlie Batch in its 27-6 win over the Tampa Bay Buccaneers on Sept. 28.

Batch, who took over for Scott Mitchell in Week 3 at Minnesota, accounted for 154 yards of total offense as the Lions scored their first win of the season. Batch had 102 rushing yards in his first two starts, which was 19 more than Mitchell had in all of 1997.

"Sometimes he can make things happen on his own," Detroit coach Bobby Ross said. "He did that a time or two and that is part of what we like about him."

Batch was 14 of 23 for 115 yards and scored on a one-yard sneak. He finished with 39 yards on eight rushes.

"I believe in myself," said Batch, a second round pick from Eastern Michigan. "When I go in the huddle, I just want my teammates to believe in me, that I will get the job done."

Wide receiver Herman Moore sees that happening. Against Tampa Bay, Batch completed nine of his first 10 passes.

"Charlie, he's getting better every week," Moore said. "It's amazing to see his progress."

Deep drop: Mitchell has fallen off the depth chart in Detroit.

The left-hander didn't get into the blowout vs. the Bucs. Veteran Frank Reich mopped up for Batch in the 21-point rout.

Here's Johnnie: While Batch has been a surprise, wide receiver Johnnie Morton has been a mild disappointment. Through the Lions first three games, all losses, Morton had 19 catches for 203 yards.

"Johnnie has to play better," Ross said. "He's a prideful guy who takes a lot of pride in what he does but now he's got to do it. We need him to play better."

A spurt: Rookie Terry Fair set a Lion record with a 105-yard kickoff return for a touchdown against Tampa Bay.

Ouch: Kicker Jason Hanson was pressed into emergency punting service against Tampa Bay when John Jett went down with a shoulder injury.

Hanson's first punt went just 26 yards but his last two averaged 33 yards and handed the Bucs poor field position.



Minnesota Vikings

This week: Idle

Randle report: Minnesota Viking defensive lineman John Randle was in a slump as September turned into October.

Randle, who led the NFL with 15.5 sacks last season, entered Week 4 with just 2.5 sacks.

The Vikings have been trying to free up Randle by playing him at both end spots as well as his customary tackle position.

The shifting has not worked as Randle finds himself facing more double and triple teams than he ever has.

"There are guys waiting everywhere for him," Minnesota defensive coordinator Foge Fazio said.

Offenses are also adjusting to keep Randle quiet. In Week 4, for example, the Bears kept backs and tight ends in to help protect quarterback Erik Kramer. Kramer kept Randle at bay with quick releases.

Randle, who has logged at least 10.5 sacks in each of the last six years, had just one tackle against the Bears.

The fact that Randle isn't getting much support isn't helping either.

Ends Derrick Alexander and Duane Clemons and tackles Tony Williams and Jason Fisk have one sack each. Left end Stalin Colinet is without a sack. He missed the first two games with a neck injury.

"Some teams get consistent pressure, some get no pressure and some are sporadic," Fazio said. "I'd say we're somewhere in between."

He's OK: Randall Cunningham continued to impress in relief of Brad Johnson. Against the Bears, Cunningham threw for 275 yards and four touchdowns with no interceptions.

"I think Randall is playing real well," Viking coach Dennis Green said. "We were looking for a No. 2 quarterback and we were very fortunate to find Randall. He's an outstanding competitor. He has a lot of poise and he can make the key throws. He does a good job of keeping everything under control."

Deja vu?: The Vikings also started the 1996 season 4-0.

They finished that season by going 5-7 and bowing to Dallas in the first round of the playoffs.



Chicago Bears

This week: At Arizona

Series: Bears lead 54-25-6.

Last meeting: The Bears won, 19-16 in overtime Nov. 27, 1994 in Arizona on Kevin Butler's field goal 8 minutes and 19 seconds into overtime. The win is the only overtime in Wannstedt's Bear reign.

Scouting report: This game is the second in a stretch of eight winnable games for the Bears.

The stretch began last week with a home game against Detroit. After the Arizona game, the Packers host Dallas, play at Tennessee, host St. Louis and play at Detroit and Atlanta.

The Bears, who began the season 0-4 for the second consecutive year, need a break in the schedule. Each of the Bears' first five foes made the playoffs a year ago.

While the Cardinals have long been an NFL pushover, they are off to a good start this season. Under former Bear defensive coordinator Vince Tobin, the Cardinals are 2-1 and have the fifth-rated defense in the NFC.

Gone: Defensive back John Mangum announced his retirement Wednesday because of recurring concussions.

Mangum, who had been with the Bears since 1990, had not played since suffering a concussion Sept. 20.

"The concussions and the time it takes to get over them has gotten worse," Mangum said. "The doctors won't allow me to play anymore. My football career is officially over."

Mangum, 31, spent most of his Bear career as a nickel back and on special teams.

Holdovers: Mangum's departure leaves tackle James "Big Cat" Williams and linebacker Jim Schwartz as the only current Bear who played under Mike Ditka.

Ouch: Cornerback Tom Carter suffered a broken collarbone in the Week 4 loss to the Minnesota Vikings and is expected to be out eight to 10 weeks.

New guy: In the wake of Carter's injury, the Bears signed cornerback Randy Hilliard on Sept. 30. Hilliard played for Denver last year. He was among the Broncos' last cuts this year.

David Marran is sports editor of the Kenosha News.

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New additions improve sore spots

By Matt Tevsh

Ron Wolf and Mike Holmgren are not ones for complacency. They never rest until they are completely satisfied with every facet of their football team.

Thus, it came as no surprise when the dynamic general manager-head coach duo set out to improve an average rushing attack, depth at cornerback and spark the special teams coverage units with the acquisition of two players.



Holmes



Bolden

Green Bay signed running back Darick Holmes on Sept. 29, then claimed cornerback and special teams "hit man" Juran Bolden a day later.

"With both of the young players that we acquired, their first chance to

contribute will be on special teams," said Holmgren. "It's not rocket science, but it will take a little time to learn what we're doing on offense and defense."

The Packers acquired Holmes from the Buffalo Bills for what is believed to be a sixth or seventh round choice in the 1999 draft. Holmes spent the first three plus years of his career with the Bills, but his playing time dropped off dramatically in 1997 and this year.

"I guess I'm blessed," said Holmes of the trade. "It's a situation where I was on a 0-3 team and now I'm on a 4-0 team. Hopefully they can keep winning while I'm here."

"I haven't really had a chance to show what I can do since I've been in the NFL. I was behind Thurman (Thomas). Then they brought in Antowain (Smith) and I was behind him. Hopefully this is a situation where I can show people what I can do."

Holmes was chosen over several other running backs that visited Green Bay in the last two weeks. Much maligned, but talented Lawrence Phillips met with Holmgren and other team officials as did fullback Craig "Ironhead" Heyward, who signed with the Indianapolis Colts on Sept. 29. The Packers, however, chose Holmes who has rushed for 1,383 yards in 385 attempts with 10 touchdowns in his career with the Bills.

Originally a seventh round selection of the Bills in the 1995 Draft out of Portland State, Holmes burst onto the scene that season with a good preseason and 698 yards rushing (4.1 average per carry) and 24 catches in the regular season.

This season, Holmes had not been used much by the Bills carrying only two times for eight yards with one reception. He was the Bills' third halfback behind Antowain Smith and Thurman Thomas. One of the reasons that the Packers liked Holmes was his versatility. At 6-foot-2, 226 pounds, Holmes has been described as an all-purpose back with the size and speed to play both halfback and fullback. It appears at

NOTEBOOK

this time that he will add depth for the Packers at both positions.

"I don't know how that's going to play out, quite honestly," said Holmgren. "But I know that he's a good back and he has carried the ball in this league and gained yards. So, a lot of it will be how he retains the stuff we're doing. It adds some nice depth to our running backs. It was something I was a little nervous about last week, but I feel better about it now."

Green Bay's rushing attack has been below average through the early part of the season with their top runner, Dorsey Levens, injured for at least the next 1-2 months. Levens had just 102 yards on 43 carries (2.4 avg.) before he got hurt and newcomer Raymont Harris has done a commendable job in his place.

"It's an ongoing process and I suspect it will go on for a while," said Holmgren regarding the running game. "Raymont is still learning and becoming more comfortable. Our execution can certainly be better... we're not there yet, and we will continue to work on it."

To make room for Holmes on the roster, the Packers released running back Michael Blair, who signed with the Cincinnati Bengals on Oct. 1.

Bolden, a third-year cornerback, was waived by the Falcons after their loss to the San Francisco 49ers in Week 4. Bolden was beaten several times as the 'nickel' back in the Falcons' passing defense against the 49ers, but is considered as one of the top outside coverage players in the league on punts.

At 6-2, 201 pounds, Bolden is one of the bigger defensive backs in the league and one of the fastest. He ran a 100-meter time of 10.28 seconds and had a 200-meter time of 20.9 seconds while at Mississippi Delta Junior College.

Bolden was a fourth-round draft pick by Atlanta in 1996 after spending a year in the Canadian Football League. He played in 27 games for Atlanta with one start. He had 11 special teams tackles in 1996.

He was inserted as Atlanta's extra back in passing defenses last year, but often got caught out of position and wasn't able to make plays.

Bolden is expected to give Green Bay's kickoff and punt coverage teams an immediate boost with his ability to get down the field and make big hits. In fact, he earned the nickname "Big Stick" during the '96 season with the Falcons.

"I have a reputation for that," said Bolden during his first day in Green Bay. "That's what I'm trying to bring in here. I'm not sure what these guys do on special teams here, but I'm just trying to bring in my part of the game, which is one of those wild and crazy guys having fun."

Rookie cornerback Roosevelt Blackmon, Green Bay's fourth-round pick this year, was released to make room for Bolden on the 53-man roster.

Short-yardage concerns: Holmgren made it very clear at one of his press conferences last week that he was quite dissatisfied with how the Packers

Holmes' numbers

Here are Darick Holmes' running and receiving statistics since he entered the NFL in 1995 with the Buffalo Bills:

Rushing						Receiving				
Year	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LG	TD	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LG	TD
1995	172	698	4.1	38t	4	24	214	8.9	47	0
1996	189	571	3.0	37	4	16	102	6.4	20	1
1997	22	106	4.8	19	2	13	106	8.2	22	0
1998	2	8	4.0	5	0	1	9	9.0	9	0
Totals	385	1,383	3.6	38t	10	54	431	8.0	4.7	1
Playoffs	28	111	4.0	34	1	1	11	11.0	11	0

handled a few short-yardage situations against the Panthers.

In the midst of a struggling rushing attack, the Packers failed to convert two fourth-and-one situations against Carolina in the first half, thus turning over the ball on downs. Both times the Panthers' defense penetrated the Packer backfield, giving the ball carrier little chance to get the first down.

"I have a big problem with that," said Holmgren. "That hasn't happened to us in a long time. Maybe with that situation - ever. My staff is looking at that and I will talk with them about that. That can't happen and I would like to find out the answers why it happened."

Favre wins award: Quarterback Brett Favre won the Miller Lite Player of the Week award for his efforts two weeks ago against the Panthers. The three-time NFL MVP tied his career-high with five touchdown passes in the game and threw for 388 yards, the third highest total of his career.

Favre has won the Miller Lite Player of the Week award three times during his career including winning the Miller Lite Player of the Year award in 1995 and 1996. The winner of the Miller Lite Player of the Year award will be chosen from a selection of six candidates who are picked from the pool of weekly nominees.

"I hope I can continue to win these and my teammates as well," said Favre. "That means we're playing well and winning."

Enough, already: Third-year wide receiver Derrick Mayes had reason to celebrate two weeks ago after a breakout per-

formance catching three touchdown passes from Favre. While Holmgren was more than happy to see Mayes have a career day, he was not bubbling with excitement over the touchdown celebration on his second touchdown.

After a 4-yard end zone reception, Mayes waved his hand under his chin gesturing at Panthers' linebacker Jeff Brady. The celebration was an apparent motion used by the "The Little Rascals," but Holmgren has historically shown he is an activist against certain touchdown celebrations.

"That little deal he did with his chin, we're going to have a chat about that," said Holmgren. "There's no place for that. He's a good player and doesn't have to do that."

Cheap shot?: The personal foul that Santana Dotson drew against Kerry Collins two weeks ago certainly surprised Dotson and the Packers. The penalty occurred in the fourth quarter when Dotson said he inadvertently struck Collins in the face while he was engaged with Panthers' guard Corbin Lacina. The official apparently thought Dotson, a player who prides himself on effort and determination, was taking a swing at Collins and threw a flag much to his mystery.

Dotson explained that he was fighting to get to Collins and swatted at his arm when Collins began to throw. The play has not warranted a fine in the week leading up to the Vikings game, but Dotson received a \$7,500 fine during the preseason for a hit on the Raiders' Jeff George.

Packer Report editor Todd Korth contributed to this report.

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Tackle a force in the middle

McCoy reinforced the defensive line from 1970-76

By Barry Shuck

He was the top-rated defensive player in the nation as a senior in college. UPI voted him Lineman Player of the Year and every NFL team coveted him. The Packers became the fortunate recipients with the second selection in the first round of the college draft.

He was named a starter in the first pre-season game in his rookie year and never relinquished the position. Later, he would be named the Packers' Most Valuable Rookie. He was big, agile and showed up wherever the ballcarrier was.



McCoy

His name is Mike P. McCoy.

McCoy played defensive tackle for 13 seasons in the NFL from 1970-82. At 6-foot-5 and 290 pounds, he was considered a monster of a man compared to the offensive and defensive lineman of his era.

"Football was exciting and fun and I loved to play. It was like experiencing a death in the family when I had to give it up," said McCoy. "To a lot of guys, their career was like a security blanket. The Lord was mine and after I left the game I

learned to adjust."

McCoy was in the running for the Heisman Trophy as a senior in 1969 while an anchor on the Notre Dame defense. Green Bay had two first-round picks in '70, and as soon as the Steelers selected Louisiana Tech quarterback Terry Bradshaw with the first pick, the Pack quickly nabbed McCoy. And McCoy was quickly initiated into the NFL.

"The Packers are the most unique team in sports," he added. "When I played we had All-Pro guard Gale Gillingham, who was a very tough guy to practice against. Sundays were fairly easy; it was the practices that were hard because of (Gale)."

Vince Lombardi left the Packers as head coach after the 1967 season and the club did not qualify for the playoffs four seasons in a row. Then in '72, the Green and Gold found themselves atop the NFC Central Division with a sterling 10-4 record. McCoy recalled the atmosphere after the Packers clinched the Division with a 23-7 win over the Minnesota Vikings, snapping a four-game losing streak to the Vikings and a four-game skid at frigid Metropolitan Stadium.

"The game we clinched was up in Minnesota and it was extremely cold. ESPN shows the replay of that game every year it seems," McCoy said. "It was just



Packer Report file photo

Defensive tackle Mike McCoy (76) played for the Packers from 1970-76.

one of those situations where one team wanted it more than another. The Vikings were trying to get into the playoffs and we had other ideas. They ended up losing three out-of-their last four games."

McCoy led the Packers in sacks in '73 and '76, the latter his final season in Green Bay. He was traded to the Oakland Raiders in 1977, then traded to the New York Giants for a seventh-round draft choice prior to the 1979 season. The Giants waived him in November of 1980 and the Detroit Lions signed him until he retired in 1982.

Free Twinkies

With his rookie bonus money, McCoy bought himself and his sister Sandy a car, plus paid off some taxes he owed and helped out his mother. He made \$18,000 that season

(the same year Lombardi passed away). In his final NFL season, he made \$72,000 — chump change to today's standards.

"It's amazing the amount of money these players make today, but the bottom line is that the money is there and why shouldn't the guys who play the game be the recipients of the (money)," Mike surmised. "The endorsements alone can be very lucrative."

"I did some promotions for Hostess when I played. They made me an 8-pound Twinkie once."

Uses his platform

McCoy has been involved in anti-drug and anti-sexual behavior programs since his second season in Green Bay. He was saved in April of '71 and helped with the Packers chapel. Today, he heads up the Bill Glass Ministry in the Atlanta area and is the chaplain for the Atlanta Braves.

"When you play professional football, it allows you a platform to do a lot of positive things," McCoy stated. "People look up to you and what's important is the message that you send back."

McCoy, who is also a pilot, currently lives 35 minutes from Atlanta with his wife of 29 years, Kiara.

He was in Green Bay in March to present his friend and former defensive back Ken Ellis into the Packer Hall of Fame.

Since McCoy was in the league, the money aspect isn't the only thing to change: free agency, devotion to football year-round and a slew of autograph seekers, to name a few.

"When I played, we had a chance to get away from the game in the off-season," he said. "Now, it is a necessity to work out to remain competitive. The loyalty is not there from the players as well as the owners. Teams will threaten to move if they don't get what they want."

But playing football is only one part of life.

"As a professional athlete, you have the tremendous opportunity to be a positive role model, plus help others," McCoy continued. "Your time is short anyway, so do something that will last far past putting on the pads. God gave the talent and in return wants you to show how positive life is with His goodness."



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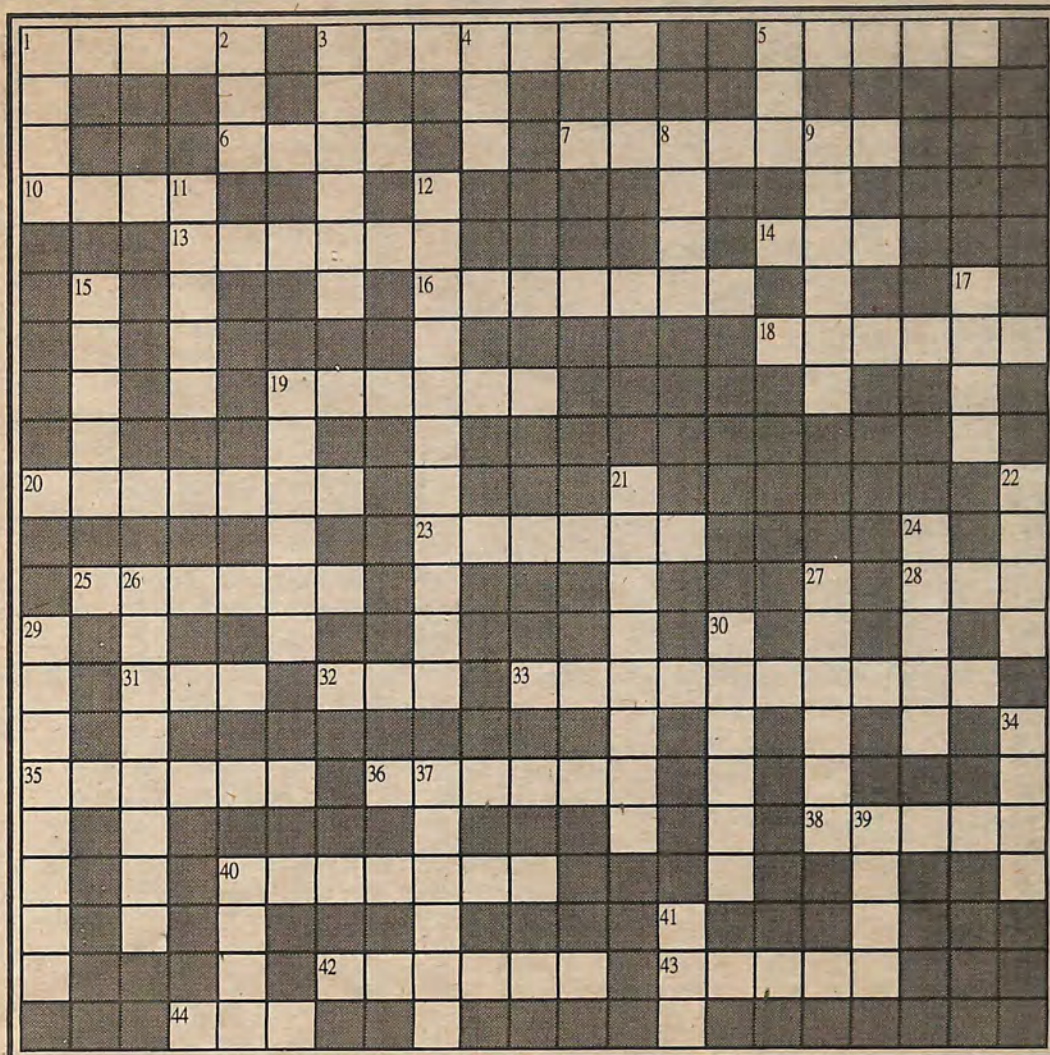
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7. Most yards gained forward passing in rookie season (1,416, 1952)
10. Brett, Bart & Lynn among others are renowned for this skill
13. Most consecutive seasons leading team rushing (7, 1960-66)
14. AFC plus NFC
16. Most passes intercepted in a game (6, 1950 vs. Detroit, Sept. 17)
18. Most yards catching passes in a single game (257, vs. LA Rams, Oct. 21, 1956, 7 receptions)
19. Most passes intercepted per season (29, 1983, 484 attempts)
20. Most punts per season (106, 1978, 35.5 avg.)
23. Highest punt return average per season (19.1, 1950)
25. Most field goals in a rookie season (33, 1972)
28. They claim the darn Broncos
31. Reggie and the gang (abbr.)
32. Streets of Green Bay are empty on this day (abbr.)
33. Most touchdowns in a rookie season (5, 1933)
35. He was displaced by Hentrich in 1997 for the best punting average per season (44.7 yards, 1963, 51 punts)
36. Most pass receptions in a rookie season (55, 1988)
38. Most consecutive games kick blocked (4, 1982)
40. Most kickoff returns in a season (46, 1971 for 1,314 yards)
42. Longest pass reception (99 from Favre at Chicago, Sept. 11, 1995)
43. Most opponent fumbles recovered in a career (21, 1961-69)
44. Winters is one of the keys to this line (abbr.)

Editor's note: Answers to the puzzle are on page 34.

DOWN

1. Gilbert loves to ____ the opponents from even gaining an inch
2. Rule enforcer (abbr.)
3. Most seasons leading team in rushing attempts (8, 1932-34, 1937-41)
4. Green Bay again proudly claimed this title in '97
5. Sure was super to be there in January of '97 and '98 (abbr.)
8. Most passes completed in a rookie season (83, 1950)
9. Most seasons with 50 or more pass receptions (7, 1979-81 and 1983-86)
11. Fewest passes intercepted in a season (3, 1966)
12. Most attempts for rushing in a rookie season (216, 1971)
15. Longest field goal (54 yards, at Detroit, Jan. 2, 1994)
17. Most interceptions received in a season (10, 1943, 10 games)
19. Most interceptions in a career (52, 1952-59, 8 seasons)
21. Most seasons leading team in rushing touchdowns (6, 1926-31)
22. Before turf toe, Jacke loved to do this
24. Most passes completed in a game (36, Chicago, Dec. 5, 1993, 54 attempts)
26. Most touchdowns by intercepting per season (3, 1965)
27. Shortest completed pass for touchdowns (4 inches to Don Hutson vs. Cleveland Rams, Oct. 18, 1942)
29. Most consecutive games scoring one or more points (45: 4 in 1980, 16 in 1981, 9 in 1982, 16 in 1983)
30. Most seasons leading the league in yards gained for passing (3, 1932)
34. Most safeties per season (2, 1932 tied with Tim Harris in 1988)
37. Most passes caught per game (14, at N.Y. Giants, Nov. 22, 1942, 134 yards)
39. Most punt returns per game (vs. Minnesota, Nov. 21, 1982, returned 49 yards)
40. Even though down at the ____, Brett usually can lead the team to a win
41. Our defense doesn't let the opponents get too many (abbr.)

— by Martha Friese

FAN! OF THE WEEK



Ron Peck "mows 'em down" with his home-made Packer lawnmower.

Name: Ron Peck

City and State: Flagstaff, Ariz.

Age: 42

How long a fan?: Since age of 10.

Favorite memory: "Meeting Ray Nitschke a couple of years ago. Ray was so nice and took time with my family and I. He asked one of the employees at the store to get the camera from my wife so he could take a picture with our whole family."

Favorite players: Bart Starr, Brett Favre, LeRoy Butler.



GREEN BAY, USA

America's Pack upcoming events

For more information,
call (920) 497-6500

Oct. 25: Tailgate prior to Green Bay's game against the Baltimore Ravens, 10 a.m. (one half hour earlier for members), \$20 general public.

Nov. 1: Tailgate prior to Green Bay's game against the San Francisco 49ers, 1:30 p.m. (one half hour earlier for members), \$20 general public.

Nov. 15: Tailgate prior to Green Bay's game against the New York Giants, 1 to 3 p.m., Sheraton Meadowlands, (please call for details (800) 774-7225, ext. 233).

Nov. 22: Tailgate prior to Green Bay's game against the Minnesota Vikings at Hilton Towers, 1001 Marquette Ave., Minneapolis, 9:30 a.m., \$35 general public.

Nov. 29: Tailgate prior to Green Bay's game against the Philadelphia Eagles, 10 a.m. (one half hour earlier for members), \$20 general public.

Dec. 7: Tailgate prior to Green Bay's game against the Tampa Bay Buccaneers at Hillsborough Community College (across from stadium along Dale Mabry Hwy.), Tampa, 6 to 7:30 p.m., \$20 general public.

Dec. 13: Tailgate prior to Green Bay's game against the Chicago Bears, 10 a.m. (one half hour earlier for members), \$20 general public.

Dec. 20: Tailgate prior to Green Bay's game against the Tennessee Oilers, 10 a.m. (one half hour earlier for members), \$20 general public.

Dec. 27: Hottest Ticket in Town party: Lambeau Field club seats during Green Bay's game against the Chicago Bears at Soldier Field. The game will be shown on the two Sony Jumbotron screens and monitors around the club seats. The parking lot opens at 10 a.m. and gates open at 11 a.m. Game time is at noon (CDT).

All of the above parties include unlimited food, beverage (beer & soda) and entertainment. All tickets for away tailgates are advance sales only. All times are local.

PEEWEE OF THE WEEK



Bundle of joy

Nine-month-old Chandler McGrath of Brandon, S.D., sits in on a tailgate party in his parents' garage prior to Green Bay's playoff game against Tampa Bay on Jan. 4. Chandler was one of about 25 people who watched the entire game outside in sub-zero temperatures in an attempt to get a feel for being at the game, according to his father John McGrath. McGrath said, "some of the neighbors thought we had gone off the deep end, but since they are Vikings fans, we wouldn't expect them to understand."

HOT NEW CHEESE ITEMS!



P631



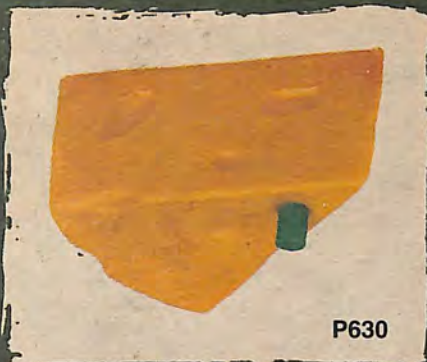
P629

P631. Cheezy Dice Cup. Same size and weight as standard dice cup, very durable. Dice are included. Item #P631. \$14.99.

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P630. Antenna Wedge. Fits on any antenna. Item #P630. \$2.99.

P628. Spring Cheese. (Single) attaches on your favorite Packer hat. Item #P628. \$3.99.



P630



P628

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Letters to the editor

Terrific support

My wife and I traveled to Cincinnati to attend the Packers/Bengal game. I was amazed at the number of Packer fans that were in attendance.

I don't know what the "official" numbers would be, but I would guess that at least 25% and possibly more of the total crowd were wearing green and gold. Their cheering was tremendous, often drowning out the home-team fans. My wife remarked on how the Packer-players seemed to look up at the crowd (most of us were in the "nose bleed sections" of Cinergy Field) and seemed to respond to the cheering. Reggie White especially acknowledged all of the loyal fans in attendance.

A Bengals fan sitting next to me asked why so many people spend so much money to see their team on the road. I don't know all of the factors, but I know that one of them is that these fans love their team. I hope the players who opt to test the free agent market at the end of this season take a cue from Gilbert Brown and weigh the total offer they can get from other teams. Other teams may be able to offer money, but, as the Beatles' song says, "Money can't buy you love."

John Elway restructured his contract this year to allow Denver to have more cap room. Of course, Elway has made a ton of money away from the field and could well afford to do this. However, I think some of those that have recently hit the mother lode (Levens, Butler, Favre) should consider doing likewise to keep a winning combination together.

William B. Kennedy,
Columbus, Ind.

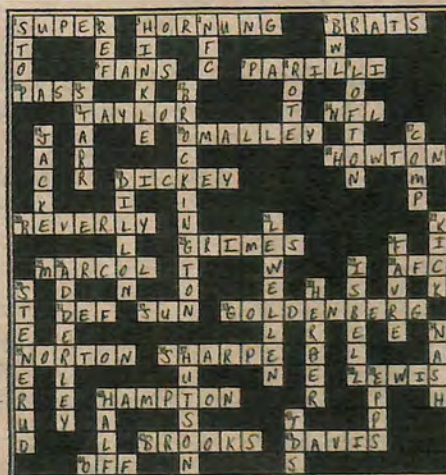
Best and worst

Packer Report:

Last year my wonderful wife, Teena, surprised me with a trip to Green Bay for my 50th birthday and nine of us attended the Green Bay vs Tampa Bay game on Oct. 5, 1997. It was truly a memorable experience. Everything was just fantastic - the birthday party at my sister's house, a family reunion, a motel room on the corner of Lombardi Ave and Holmgren Way, the super atmosphere inside Lambeau Field, the never-ending, positive cheering for the Pack. Go Pack Go! I'll always remember how absolutely great it was to celebrate my 50th in Green Bay - a dream come true!

Now contrast that fantastic experience to this year's opportunity to see my beloved Packers in Mile High Stadium for

Answer to puzzle from page 33.



Requirements

Letters to the *Packer Report* are welcome, but must be limited to 350 words. They must be signed with a name, address and phone number. The *Packer Report* reserves the right to reject or edit letters. Writers are limited to one letter each 30 days. The *Packer Report's* e-mail address is packrept@aol.com. Typed letters can be faxed to (920) 497-6519, or sent by conventional mail to:

Packer Report

"Letters to the editor"

1317 Lombardi Access Road
Green Bay, WI 54304

a preseason game against the Donkeys. We were truly amazed as we walked into Mile High. The Bronco players were being introduced, but the Bronco "fans???" in the south stands were *not* cheering their Broncos. Rather, they were well into lambasting the Green Bay Packer players, organization, and worst of all, our fans. Everything that came out of their ugly mouths was negative, profane, obscene trash talk. They proudly wore clothes that said "(expletive) Favre" or "Packers Suck," and constantly repeated these and other obscenities throughout the entire three hour ballgame. It was as if they tried to outdo the next person to see who could be the most profane, most obscene, or most obnoxious. We literally did not enjoy a single minute of being in that vulgar crowd. We even summoned a police officer to expel a drunken lady behind us who cussed at us non-stop, but he did nothing.

Bottom line: Packer fans are class people who respect others and cheer positively for the greatest team in any professional sport. Packer policies are right on target by insisting on decent behavior at Lambeau Field. Don't ever lose that. It separates us from the non-champion fans.

Jim Barager,

Colorado Springs, Colo.

Pass on running ball

Dear Packer Report,

Packers are 4 and 0 for the first time since Lombardi. Brett throws five touchdowns, Mayes catches three of them, Reggie gets a sack, Holliday is turning out to be a great addition, we are in first place! How can I be disappointed? Well, I am!

We are in a tight game, Carolina is neck and neck with us, we are doing fine, but so are the Panthers! I realize losing Levens is a big hit and we want to get Harris into the groove, but, what's with the running plays on first down? That is for the first half, not the second half when we are trying to pull away from the Panthers!

Our running plays were producing nothing! Our passing was really very good! Five touchdowns, bunch of first downs, etc! So the Coach goes back to the running game with 8 and some odd minutes left with three running plays. We have to punt after the three running plays and give Carolina the ball with over 8 minutes left? What happens. Carolina scores and is right back in the game when we should have stayed with the passing game and went for another score!

I understand the importance of the running game, but not with 8 minutes left in a topsy turvy, tight game! The Packers almost lost the game, Brett lost his chance to throw six touchdowns in a game, and I got some more gray hairs that I didn't need!

Bruce Dzamba,
Jersey City, N.J.

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